FBIS DAILY REPORT

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OAPEC ISSUES PRESS STATEMENT AT END OF CONFERENCE

LD150841 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 10 May 79 p 23 LD

[Text of statement issued by OAPEC]

[Text] The following press statement was issued last night at the end of the meetings of the oil ministers of the Organization of Arab Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

The OAPEC Ministerial Council held its 22d session in Kuwait 12 Jumada Al-Akharah, corresponding to 9 May 1979. The meetings were headed by 'Izz Ad-Din Mabruk, oil secretary of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The council has approved the appointment of members of the board of governors of the Arab Oil Training Academy and of Burhan Ad-Daghistani as the academy's director general.

The council discussed the principles proposed for a joint Arab oil-refining policy and decided to set up a unit within the Secretariat General to gather and analyze information contributing to the development of the Arab market for oil byproducts.

The council also acquainted itself with the outcome of the first Arab energy conference and decided to approve the idea of member states setting up individual energy committees and also the preparation of a comprehensive study on the question of the tasks and responsibilities involved in setting up a joint Arab energy commission, to be submitted to the next Ministerial Council meeting.

The council also apprised itself of current Arab activities in the field of synthetic protein and approved continued research in this industry and the setting up of a subcommittee of Arab experts working in this field in the countries that have research centers with a view to coordinating such activities within OAPEC. The council then familiarized itself with the report of the Standing Committee on Oil Refining and the Secretariat General's role in the current studies on the synthetic rubber and carbon black projects. The council also studied the outcome of the seminars on oil deposits and oil exploration and welcomed the holding of such seminars and the development of the Secretariat General's capabilities in this field.

The Ministerial Council also charged the secretaries general with approaching the Iranian Oil Company and expressing OAPEC's desire for technical cooperation in the petroleum field with the Iranian Islamic Republic.

The council unanimously decided to renew the mandate of Secretary General Dr 'Ali Ahmad 'Atiqah for a further 3-year term as OAPEC secretary general.

The council endorsed OAPEC's final statement of account for 1978 and decided to hold its next meeting at OAPEC headquarters in Kuwait 14 Muharram 1400, corresponding to 4 December 1979.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

JN161400 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar met in Damascus last night with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd Al-Halim Khaddam. The discussion dealt with the local and international situation. Agreement was reached on the steps that should be taken for future joint action on the African and nonalined levels. The discussion also dealt with the situation in southern Lebanon.

In another development, brother Abu 'Ammar attended the dinner last night hosted by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in honor of the trade unionist delegations participating in the workers conference in solidarity with the Palestinian workers and people.

PLO'S MUHSIN ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, SALT IMPLICATIONS

LD161531 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 14-20 May 79 LD

[Interview granted by Zuhayr Muhsin, general secretary of As-Sa'iqah organization and head of the PLO Military Department, to AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI correspondent in Beirut--date not given]

[Excerpts] Zuhayr Muhsin has many tasks. He is general secretary of As-Sa'iqah organization, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command, and head of the PLO Military Department. The most recent of his tasks is membership on the committee charged with coordination between the [Lebanese] "Nationalist Movement," the Palestine resistance and the ruling Ba'th Party in Syria.

The following is text of an interview with him:

Question: What has the tripartite meeting in Damascus between the "Nationalist Movement," the resistance and Syria achieved, and has a "front type" formula been reached?

Answer: To describe the Damascus meeting as "front type" is an exaggeration. The fact is that it was an attempt to unify understanding and views of what is happening in Lebanon and in the area and to reorganize the relations within the ranks of the Lebanese nationalist forces and their relationship with the other Lebanese forces and factions opposed to the secessionist plan.

These forces must avoid disturbances in their relationship with one another as well as with the other forces that may pursue the same line. It is worth noting here that the resistance was satisfied with being represented by one person, which is an indication of the fact that the situation within the resistance movement is healthier than it is within the Lebanese forces themselves. The purpose of the meeting was to define the role of the various parties whether the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] remain or withdraw, to discuss the question of security in west Beirut and to try to do away with the chaos and lack of discipline and to stop hostile infiltrations into the nationalist areas.

What is more important still is to unify the political stand toward the state. Some people demand the resignation of the president while others call for support for him. Some support the deployment of the Lebanese Army, while others call for opposing it militarily. The meeting also discussed the question of dialog with those who can be called moderates in "the Lebanese Front," as well as the attitude toward forming a new government and participating in it.

Briefly, the task of this committee is to strive for unified stands and common views.

Question: There has been much talk about calls for dialog between "the Lebanese Front" and Syria. What is your comment on this?

Answer: We would be prepared for a dialog if they will stop dealing with Israel, although we do not believe in the seriousness of their statements [denying dealing with Israel] because their dealing with Israel is an irrevocable involvement. I believe that both Sham'un's sons and Bashir al-Jumayyil are involved with Israel to a point where they cannot go back even if they wish to do so.

President Ilyas Sarkis has an idea in his mind which he will not abandon, and he can think of nothing else. The idea is that Syria should come to an understanding with the "Lebanese Front", or with the Phalangist Party at least, so that reconciliation will become possible. This is an inconceivable and impractical demand because it is absolutely out of the question for Syria to propose dialog with "the Lebanese Front" for many reasons.

Most important of these is that if Syria conducted a dialog with the "Lebanese Front" it would somehow be bringing pressure on friendly and allied forces. Also, Syria cannot possibly propose or even accept a proposal for initiating a dialog as long as the "front" has open relations with Israel. Otherwise, what would be the significance of boycotting As-Sadat? We reject As-Sadat's dealing with Israel and any country dealing with As-Sadat because he deals with Israel. As-Sadat is the president of Egypt and he, let alone ordinary citizens of a country which is still officially in a state of war with Israel, is committing high treason under its laws by dealing with Israel. Some people urge us to extend our hand to them in the hope that they may stop dealing with Israel. But no one can take such a risk on the basis of such a hypothesis, since it is quite likely that they will not stop.

Everybody, particularly Syria, wants the Lebanese problem to be solved as quickly as possible and at the least possible price, because Syria would feel at ease and would be able to devote itself to fighting the battle with As-Sadat and Israel. The same applies to the resistance and to all the Arab parties.

Question: How true is it that the ADF forces will leave Beirut, and is this the beginning of their withdrawal from Lebanon.

Answer: So far nobody has decided that Beirut should remain without ADF forces, but no one knows how the situation will develop. So this is a possibility at any moment. Therefore, it is incumbent on all the parties, particularly the state, to prepare in advance to face such a possibility. This was one of the issues that the brothers who attended the Damascus meeting discussed. Despite the reassurances that there will be no withdrawal, it is still a possibility that must be taken into consideration.

An example of this is what happened in Al-Ashrafiyah [quarter of Beirut] when the ADF withdrew from the area.

Therefore, Syria takes a strategic view of its forces in Lebanon, which is not the same as that of the "Nationalist Movement." This view is part of its evaluation of its general defense needs for the confrontation with Israel and the partitioning [of Lebanon]. Consequently, Syria does not attach great importance to a street, to a corner or to a bridge. Only the local forces are interested in these. The people's interest in such places is such that they know their names more than they know the capitals of the Arab countries.

Question: What would be the Palestinian resistance role, and will it act as an "ADF" in Beirut?

Answer: There is no question that the resistance does exist. In the event that fighting breaks out again, it will be primarily directed against the resistance. Although I believe that the "Lebanese Front's" war is mainly directed against the other Lebanese, this "front" cannot say publicly that it is fighting the other communities. Despite the slogan that its war is against the Palestinians and the aliens and despite its attempts to make the other Lebanese doubt that they are really Lebanese or to believe that they are semi-Lebanese, we are constantly ready for this kind of situation.

We want the Lebanese nationalist forces to play the primary role in confronting any aggression or explosion set off by the "Lebanese Front." But this does not mean that the resistance will adopt a neutral stand if civil war flares up again. We voice the hope a thousand times that it will not.

Question: What is your answer to Israel's claim about returning the Golan to Syria in return for peace between Syria and Israel?

Answer: The talk about the Golan is not new. Kissinger proposed this several times before to the Syrian command; Syria knows that if only the Golan were in question and it were prepared to pay the price that As-Sadat paid, the problem would have been solved in a few days and on less unfair terms than those which As-Sadat accepted. But the problem for Syria is bigger and encompasses more than the Golan. The Palestinian problem has priority in the settlement. Under different circumstances Syria would have accepted discussion of all the issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the lands occupied in 1967 and the Palestinian people's rights within the framework of an international conference and not in direct negotiations with the Israeli enemy. But following the disturbance caused by As-Sadat's signing of the separate treaty with the enemy, such a proposal has become out of the question. Syria has dropped the idea of Geneva or other conferences until there is an opportunity to redress the balance of power in the area and until the United States and Israel recognize the Palestinian people's existence and that these people have full political and national rights, foremost of which is their right to have an independent state on their own land.

Question: The signing of the SALT II treaty between Moscow and Washington is imminent. Don't you think that this treaty will curb Soviet influence and support in favor of a Palestinian state?

Answer: At no time have we heard from the Soviets about such a linkage between the signing of the SALT II agreement and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

But certainly the signing of the treaty was one of the means of Soviet pressure on the United States, the pressure that compelled Washington to sign the well-known Soviet-U.S. joint statement before As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem. But the fate of the situation was never dependent on the signing. We do not believe that signing the agreement will harm our struggle or the balance of power between us and Israel. We believe that the contrary is probably true. The Soviet Union can double its production of conventional weapons at the expense of strategic weapons, and therefore its ability to supply arms to friendly states will be enhanced.

Politically, international detente has been in existence for several years, but this had no practical effect on the local conflicts in various parts of the world, one aspect of which was the conflict between the two giants in Africa and Indochina. It is not necessary to develop the Arab-Israeli conflict into a worldwide nuclear war. In time, conflict using conventional weapons will be in our favor.

ARAB OIL STATES REPORTEDLY SUBJECTED TO PRESSURE

NC170925 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0814 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 May--AL-AHRAM today reports that the oil states are currently being subjected to pressure from Syria, Jordan and the PLO to pay the second installment of the dues that the rejectionist states imposed at the Baghdad summit conference.

The paper says that the installment amounts to $1.166 billion, of which $616.5 million would go to Syria, $416.5 million to Jordan and $133 million to the PLO, including $50 million to the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

Syria, Jordan and the PLO had asked for $3.5 billion annually.

KUWAIT

CARINET AFFAIRS MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO AS-SIYASAH

JN161221 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1135 GMT 15 May 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 16 May--Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn has stated that his country has not received any request to hold a new Arab summit to discuss the Middle East developments.

In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today, Husayn expressed his country's readiness to attend any Arab meeting at any level. The Kuwaiti official stressed that any forthcoming summit conference should be well prepared, so that it will be effective and produce positive results on Arab and international issues.

The Kuwaiti minister expects a new positive stage in joint Arab action after the Arab League and its affiliated bodies begin work at their new headquarters in Tunis. He called on the Arab countries to develop Arab League organs to make them more effective.

The Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs praised the escalation of Palestinian resistance operations inside the occupied Arab territories. He said that this fact proves that the Palestinian people will eventually recover their rights on their soil.

AL-ANBA' DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT'S ACCESSION TO UAE

JN170907 Doha QNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' quotes reliable sources as saying that the consultations being conducted by Kuwaiti officials regarding Kuwait's accession to the UAE revolve around the first phase of achieving coordination in foreign and defense policies. This will be followed by unification of these two policies.

The sources pointed out that unification of or coordination among the armies of the states of the area will play a major role in maintaining stability, on the one hand, and in increasing defense capabilities, on the other. This will ward off many dangers threatening the area and will also allow the armed forces to be modernized.

These sources said that unification of foreign policies is at an advanced stage in the current consultations and coordination efforts. This will have positive results on the Arab and international levels.

OMAN

INDIAN MINISTER OF STATE ENDS VISIT

JN161533 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Muscat, 16 May--Somarendra Kundu, Indian minister of state for external affairs, left here for home today. Minister Kundu met His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman earlier today. He also met with Qays az-Zawawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and discussed bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

QATAR

VENEZUELAN ENERGY MINISTER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN161017 Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Excerpts] Doha, 16 May--Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Dr Humberto Calderon Berti arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi this morning on a short visit to Qatar.

In a statement to QNA on arrival, the Venezuelan minister said that he will deliver a message to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, from the Venezuelan president dealing with strengthening bilateral relations. He added that his country has always sought to strengthen relations with the Arab countries. He said that his country will continue the policy it has adopted for the past 20 years concerning OPEC. The Venezuelan minister said his talks during the present tour deal with the consequences of the recent oil price increases and their effects on the general developments policy of other developing countries.

Message to Amir

JN161019 Doha QNA in Arabic 1002 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Doha, 16 May--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. The message was delivered by Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Dr Humberto Calderon Berti when he was received by the amir of Qatar at the Doha Palace this morning.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari and Venezuelan Ambassador to Qatar Jose Alejandro Sune Gorrin.

QNA has learned that the message deals with oil price issues, the present situation in the oil market, Venezuela's proposal to increase financial assistance to developing countries and means of strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the oil sphere.

SAUDI ARABIA

GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES 'RESERVATIONS' OVER YEMENI UNITY

JN131827 Cairo DPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 May 79 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 13 May--Reports arriving here from Riyadh today say that Saudi Arabia has expressed reservations regarding the political unity that is intended to be concluded between the politically moderate YAR and the pro-Moscow Marxist PDRY. These reports came following the consultations held in Riyadh between Saudi King Khalid and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

However, Saudi Arabia has promised Northern Yemen further political and economic support.

The agreement reached between the two Yemens led to increasing political activity by the YAR, which is trying to clarify its stand.

BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD132052 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1937 GMT 13 May 79 LD

[Text] Jidda--This evening, the Bangladesh minister of foreign affairs, Muhammad Shamsul Haq, arrived in Jidda from Fez on a visit to the kingdom which will last a few days. In the course of the visit he will deliver to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz a message from President Ziaur Rahman. He will also hold talks with senior officials regarding bilateral relations and issues of joint concern. He will also perform the minor pilgrimage.

The Bangladesh minister of foreign affairs was received at the airport by Salim Sunbul, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, a delegate from the Royal Protocol Office and the Bangladesh charge d'affaires.

Khalid Meeting

LD141256 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 79 LD

[Excerpts] At noon today King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received in his office at the Royal Palace of Al-Ma'dhar the Bangladesh foreign minister, Muhammad Shamsul Haq. The Bangladesh foreign minister delivered a message to his majesty from Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman.

The Bangladesh foreign minister arrived in Riyadh from Jidda this morning to begin a visit to the kingdom.

UAE

SUDAN TO LOOK AFTER EGYPTIAN INTERESTS IN UAE

JN151134 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 May 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 May--The UAE has agreed that the Sudanese Embassy in the UAE will look after Egyptian interests there. Muhammad Husayn ash-Sha'abi, director of the political desk in the UAE Foreign Ministry, has conveyed a memorandum to this effect to the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Abu Dhabi.

It should be recalled that Egypt has agreed that the Turkish Embassy in Cairo will look after UAE interests in Egypt.

VENEZUELAN MINISTER ON OPEC FUND FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

JN152022 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 May 79 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 15 May--Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, who is currently visiting the UAE, said that he proposed to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan the establishment of a special fund financed by all the OPEC member states to aid the developing countries that are affected by the increase in oil prices. He said that this fund, with a suggested capital of $800 million, would help in solving the problems of the trade deficit of the balance of payments of developing countries and in development projects that would benefit these countries.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, the Venezuelan minister affirmed that his government supports Iraq's call at UNCTAD, which is still meeting in the Philippines capital of Manila, regarding the establishment of a fund financed by oil-producing states and industrial countries.

Regarding a possible oil price increase at the coming Geneva conference, the Venezuelan minister said: This is linked to the world oil markets, which continue to suffer an imbalance in supply and demand. He declined, however, to affirm that there will be an oil price increase, saying that he prefers to wait until the convocation of the conference.

Concluding his statement, the Venezuelan minister said that his current visits to the OPEC member states will be followed by another tour during which he will visit other member states in the second half of this year.

Minister Departs

JN160735 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0735 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 16 May--Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Dr Humberto Calderon Berti left for Doha this morning at the end of a 2-day official visit to the UAE.

The Venezuelan minister was seen off at Abu Dhabi International Airport by Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah.

FATAH LEADER ABU IYAD ARRIVES ON VISIT

JN160929 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0920 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 May--Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, arrived here this morning on a visit of several days to the UAE, during which he will hold talks with UAE officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and on the current Arab situation.

He was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan and PLO representative to the UAE Ribhi 'Awad.

Arrival Statement

JN161706 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 May--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, a Palestinian resistance leader and member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived here this morning on a visit of several days to the UAE for talks with officials on the latest developments in the situation in the Palestinian arena and the current Arab situation. He was received at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan and PLO representative in the UAE Ribhi 'Awad.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, Salah Khalaf said that the purpose of his visit is to acquaint officials in the UAE with the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and subjects that concern the PLO.

In his statement, Mr Khalaf denounced the idea of self-rule in the West Bank advocated by Israel. He said that such alleged rule derives its sovereignty from Israel. There is no self-rule in history which derives its independence and sovereignty from occupation and from the enemy, he added. Mr Khalaf expressed his confidence in the nobility and Arabism of the Egyptian people.

He said: This people will ultimately restore Egypt to its natural place in confronting the Zionist enemy.

Commenting on what is happening in Lebanon and on dissident Major Haddad's proclamation of an independent state, the Fatah Central Committee member said: This is part of a general scheme to partition the region into ministates in the north, south and east. He affirmed that the Palestinian revolutionaries and the Lebanese nationalist forces are capable of aborting this scheme.

Mr Khalaf expressed hope that the meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Sarkis has emerged with positive results that can strengthen the march of security in Lebanon, particularly since the area is heading toward possible tension in several regions.

Mr Khalaf described the Jordanian Government's stand on the peace treaty as good and said that it strengthens Jordanian-Palestinian ties.

Answering a question on the results of the Islamic states' foreign ministers conference, Khalaf said: This conference strengthened the Palestinian revolution's relationship with the Arab and Islamic peoples. It confirmed that the Palestinian revolution is not alone in the field but is supported by huge forces. He added that the Arabs' intrinsic power and solidarity give a practical boost to Islamic solidarity.

YEMEN--PDRY

CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION OPENS TALKS WITH YSP

LD151537 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 May 79 LD/EA

[Text] The first round of talks between the delegations of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] led by brother Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id, member of the Central Committee and director of the Department of Mass Organizations at the Central Committee Secretariat, and of the Chilean Communist Party led by Comrade Dr [name indistinct], member of the Chilean CP Central Committee and candidate member of the Chilean Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat, began this morning.

The ADEN NEWS AGENCY reports that the Chilean Communist Party delegation carried a message for brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, from Comrade Luis Corvalan, secretary general of the Chilean Communist Party.

The Chilean Communist Party delegation arrived in Aden yesterday on a visit to the PDRY at the invitation of the YSP for talks with YSP leaders.

Regional Office Receives Delegation

LD161958 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 May 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Abu Bakr 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Badhib, member of the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee and secretary of the party's organizational committee in the first governorate, this morning received in his office the delegation of three Chilean Communist Party members visiting Democratic Yemen at the invitation of the Central Committee.

During the meeting brother Abu Bakr al-Badhib reviewed general developments in the Yemeni arena and the struggles being waged by the workers and toilers of the Yemen, led by the YSP, to create a new Yemeni society and to establish a unified Democratic Yemen. Brother Abu Bakr al-Badhib also reviewed with the Chilean Communist Party delegation the situation in the Arab region and the grave results of the Camp David accord signed by agent As-Sadat with the Zionist enemy.

For their part, the Chilean Communist Party delegates explained the development of the political struggle being waged by the Chilean Communist Party and masses against the imperialist and reaction-backed fascist regime.

Brother Abu Bakr al-Badhib told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY that his talks with the Chilean Communist Party delegation covered a number of issues. The YSP delegation explained the principal trends of its work following its establishment, which were primarily directed toward strengthening the party's leading role and improving its qualitative structure so as to absorb a greater number of the most conscientious workers, peasants and women. He added: We also told the visiting delegation about the party's organizational work in the first governorate, as well as about its structure and methods with particular reference to ideological and economic activities. He went on to say: The Chilean Communist Party delegates, for their part, explained the experience of the work of the Chilean Communist Party and the main aspects of its struggle to topple the fascist regime in Chile. The talks with the Chilean Communist Party delegation, which were dominated by a cordial and comradely atmosphere, have contributed toward the strengthening of relations between our YSP and the Chilean Communist Party.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS SOVIET BASE ON SOCOTRA ISLAND

NC170901 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 May--Quoting the South Yemeni United National Front, the newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that according to secret reports the Soviet Union has completed the setting up of an important military base on Socotra Island in South Yemen in the Arabian Sea, east of the Horn of Africa.

The paper says that the Soviet base includes sophisticated electronic surveillance systems and a communications center for monitoring artificial satellite transmissions, long-range missile launchers and ports for warships and submarines.

This Soviet base has been established on the Yemeni island following the transfer of the military base in Somalia.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH RETURNS FROM VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

JN141321 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 79 JN

[Excerpt] This morning, Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, returned to the homeland following an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ENDS MEETINGS, ISSUES STATEMENT

JN151814 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 79 JN

[Statement issued by YAR-PDRY Joint Economic Committee following its final session in San'a' on 15 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Joint Economic and Financial Committee held its first session in San'a' 10-15 May 1979. It reviewed the topics discussed during its previous sessions and evaluated the topics agreed on by the previous committee as well as those subjects on which no final unified viewpoint has been reached and the subjects studied by the subcommittees and not the joint committee.

Out of a spirit of responsibility and understanding, which has permeated the work of the committee, an understanding has been reached regarding some subjects carried over from previous sessions. The committee has drawn up its agenda for the next session so as to decide on pending and postponed issues and the proposed implementation steps to (?tackle) them.

This session's meetings were permeated by a sincere fraternal spirit to achieve Yemeni unity, which is the aspiration of our people and basis of their progress, development and strength.

PRESIDENT SALIH ADDRESSES OPENING SESSION OF PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

JN161930 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Excerpts] At 1000 today, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih opened the second session of the Constituent People's Council. The national anthem was played, then the president opened the session in the name of God and the people. Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president and chairman of the Constituent People's Council, introduced the president, who delivered the following historic speech:

[Begin recording] Brothers: On this occasion, I am glad to thank the brother members of the Constituent People's Council for their brave national stands and their great national accomplishments achieved through this assembly. I would like to point out that in the forthcoming stage they will have to shoulder huge responsibilities represented in preparing the country for direct, free and honest general elections [applause] so that our people can exercise their right to express their opinion and elect their representatives in this council through free and honest elections, which are not subjected to any sort of intimidation whatever. [applause] [end recording]

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL GIVEN PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

NC161956 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has issued a presidential decree granting Prime Minister and Deputy Military Governor General Dr Mustafa Khalil all powers of the president of the republic stipulated in law No 162 for the year 1958, regarding the state of emergency. The following is the text of the decree:

Order No 101 for the year 1979 by the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, granting the deputy military governor general the powers of the president of the republic stipulated in the decision promulgating law No 162 regarding the state of emergency:

After taking cognizance of the decision promulgating law No 162 for the year 1958 regarding the state of emergency, Presidential Decree 1337 for the year 1967 regarding the declaration of the state of emergency, and Presidential Order No 98 for the year 1978 on the appointment of a deputy military governor general, the president of the republic decrees:

Article 1. Dr Mustafa Khalil, the prime minister and deputy governor military general, is given all powers of the president of the republic stipulated in the decision promulgating law 162 for the year 1958 regarding the state of emergency.

Article 2. This order shall be published in the official gazette and shall come into force as of the date of its issuance.

Done at the presidency on Jamada second 1399 Hegira, corresponding to 13 May 1979.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT ADDRESSES RALLY IN AT-TALA'AT

NC161548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1343 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[16 May speech by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat at a public rally in the village of At-Tala'at in Ad-Dilinjat district in the Governorate of Al-Buhayrah]

[Text] At-Tala'at village, Al-Buhayrah Governorate, 16 May--in the name of God, brothers and sons: It is a happy moment for all of us to meet here to start the reconstruction which the people have approved, after we achieved peace with the help of God. It is a happy moment for me to meet with you--Bedouins and villagers. We meet here as relatives, brothers and dear friends under the canopy of the Egyptian family. God Almighty has given the Egyptian family and Egypt pride and dignity. It is a moment in which we will begin the reconstruction program.

Soon you will go to the polling stations to cast your vote so that we can start the first step in the reconstruction process represented by the election of the new People's Assembly on the bases of the traditions, values and rules of the Egyptian family. This will be a first step to be followed by other steps.

Yesterday I spoke to you about this year. Thanks be to God Almighty, this year we will pick the fruit of the work, struggle, sweat and blood which continued from 1978 up to this day. This year our celebrations will begin and we will pick the fruit of this whole struggle. The hand of God Almighty was over our heads because we believe in him and because we returned to the creed of love instead of the creeds of hatred and grudges.

We returned to ourselves, and our armed forces restored the whole world's confidence, not only in us but also in the Arab nation, when your sons and brothers crossed the Suez Canal. They did not cross only to liberate the land, but also to cross with their Arab nation from humiliation and disgrace to pride and dignity.

Here on the land of Egypt, on the land of divine religions, on our canal, the Arab nation restored its position and became the sixth power in the world. It is true that they are hoarding gold now as a result of this battle which we waged. However, we are not jealous of them, but we tell them that Egypt has always been and will remain the brain, heart, hand and will of the Arab nation. Without Egypt, there is no war, no peace, no science and no faith. Without Egypt, no one in the Arab nation or in this area of the world can be proud of this 7,000-year heritage.

I thank God Almighty that we are meeting at these moments when we have started building this high edifice. As I said yesterday to the people of Al-Buhayrah, words cannot express my thanks and gratitude to you for the way you have welcomed me. I thank God that we are meeting at a time when we are starting the process of construction just as we staged together the process of war and then the process of peace.

We start today the process of construction with the blessing of God and inspired by our divine creeds and this sacred soil, which taught us values, faith and how to be noble and strong. We start the process of construction for prosperity on the basis of science and faith.

A most honorable professor, Dr Hazin, spoke before me. He told us about the history of this land, which makes us hold our heads high in the world, among our Arab nation and in this part of the world. This is the most ancient land, the holiest land and the dearest land. Over thousands of years the people of Egypt have made great contributions to uphold the words of God and the values of civilization, science and faith.

Today we begin the process of construction. We thank God Almighty for keeping us alive to pick the fruits this year. As I told you, in a few days time I will be in Al-'Arish, God willing, to take over the town. On behalf of all of you and accompanied by the representatives of all sectors of the people, I will take over Al-'Arish, the capital of Sinai, the capital of the holy land which was made holy by God Almighty when he sent down the first divine message.

We will then sit down to accomplish Egypt's historic and leadership responsibility in establishing full autonomy for the Palestinians. With the establishment of this autonomy the Israeli military government and the Israeli civil administration will end, and Israel will withdraw to specific security positions.

God willing we will be in Al-'Arish and Beersheba to chart the sound course on which the march of the Palestinian people will begin. This is after the Palestinian people have been sold out and traded with for 31 years up to today. We will not heed those who bark. Egypt is aware of its responsibilities. Egypt is faithful to its leadership role and its message. Egypt will never renounce any Arab right or any right that will promote justice and peace.

Brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the Egyptian people in the deserts and urban areas, in the villages and in the cities, and everywhere: We are beginning the march of victory with God's blessings. This month we will celebrate, God willing, the return of our sacred land. In October, God willing, we will celebrate the return of an important branch of our economy, which is the oil.

In October we will also honor our armed forces, who we are strengthening in order to maintain peace and not to shed blood or establish empires. No. We will celebrate with our military forces on 6 October, and modern weapons will appear in the parade, God willing.

In November, God willing, we will have a celebration on Mount Sinai, where God spoke to Moses and the three heavenly religions started. In December, God willing, as I promised and promised the Islamic world yesterday, I will call for an Islamic conference to discuss the liberation of Jerusalem--to liberate it not with slogans, shouts or exploitation, but we will liberate it, God willing, with faith, right and justice, and by raising the banner of peace. In December also, the first stage of withdrawal of the Israeli forces from three-quarters of Sinai will be completed, and it will revert back to its mother Egypt so that we can begin the era of prosperity and development.

Thank God that we are reaping the fruits of suffering which we have endured for the past 9 years. Today we are facing a challenge which we must all accept and take up. This challenge is to build prosperity for everyone on our land; to build a happy home for every young man and woman; to build the lofty structure which can never be towered over by these dwarfs. It is a building founded on solid ground which is Egypt, the soil of Egypt, the faith of Egypt, the tenacity of Egypt with its people, its sons and with everything on its soil and in its skies. Here on this land the lofty building will be established with all our hands. Then we will tell them: "Peace be to you: We seek not the ignorant." [Koranic verse] "Our lord: Let not our hearts deviate now after thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy from thine own presense; for thou art the grantor of bounties without measure." [Koranic verse] God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Comments to Newsmen

NC161622 Cairo MENA in English 1518 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] At-Tala'at village, Al-Buharah Governorate, lower Egypt May 16 (MENA)--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat reiterated that Egypt would not negotiate for the Palestinians and said, I do not encourage anyone to negotiate for them.

In reply to questions posed by the foreign correspondents following the popular rally held here today, the president said: I am negotiating with the Israelis to raise the sufferings and put the Palestinians in the right channel to self-determination through this full autonomy.

Answering a question on who should negotiate for the Palestinians, President as-Sadat said: Well, as for the process that will start on the 25th of May in Beersheba, I mean the process of negotiating on the full autonomy, I do not see any need for any Palestinian to join because we shall not determine the fate of the Palestinians in the meeting. It is only starting the full autonomy and putting the Palestinians in the right channel to choose for themselves after that.

In reply to a question on the situation as regards the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), President as-Sadat said: I have said my assessment of this, but there is no need to discuss this now.

The president went on to say: Let us first apply the full autonomy and put the Palestinians on the right path, on the correct channel, approach to self-determination and then after that let us discuss the PLO or any other thing.

Asked on his reaction towards the U.S. Senate's endorsement of a multi-million dollar aid bill for both Israel and Egypt, President as-Sadat said: Well, it is really an act that we all welcome and cherish because behind this appears the face of the U.S. as the peace-maker and not the policeman again.

On the possibility that some of this money might be used in purchasing Phantom jets after the Saudis appear not to be prepared to purchase for Egypt, President as-Sadat said: Well, the Phantom, yet, but maybe you are mentioning the F-5 planes. I did not receive anything that indicates until this moment that Saudi Arabia has come back on their words, but I mentioned before that if this will be the decision of the Saudis, I shall thank them. And as I told some of your colleagues, I shall be asking the American people, not the government, not the Senate, not the Congress, not even my friend President Carter, but I shall be asking the American people to finance this as a cornerstone of the era of America, the peace-maker, but not the policeman, the president said.

On a question that there was some ministerpretation on President as-Sadat's remarks yesterday regarding the Soviet Union, and that some said it is a hand of friendship, a new policy perhaps with the Soviet Union and on the other hand with the Arabs, President as-Sadat said: We have always been of the same attitude. I said whenever they choose to build relations, based on equality and non-interference, we are ready for this. This has always been our attitude, not only with the Soviet Union, but also with all the others.

EXTENSION OF UN EMERGENCY FORCES MANDATE IN SINAI

NC161530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 May--MENA has learned that Egypt will continue its contacts with the United Nations concerning the extension of the UN Emergency Forces mandate in Sinai. The forces current mandate is scheduled to end on 24 July. In this framework, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, will meet with General Siilasvuo upon the latter's return to Cairo.

Siilasvuo Departure

NC161234 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 May--Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, chief coordinator of the UN Emergency Forces in the Middle East, left Cairo at noon today for Israel after a 1-day visit to Egypt.

KHALIL ON 'CHALLENGE' IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NC161216 Cairo MENA in English 1115 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, May 16, (MENA)--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil declared that peace requisites surmount war requisites and the stage of normalising relations with Israel is a stage of challenge between the Egyptian people and Israel.

Addressing the preparatory scientific conference on the role of science and technology in planning for the society of peace Dr Khalil asserted that the Egyptian man who achieved the glorious crossing and shattered the barriers of defeat is capable to break the barriers of economic backwardness and overcome all problems resulting from the scourges of war.

Dr Khalil also referred to the role of [science] in building the stage of peace noting that the society of scientists should enjoy all potentials enabling them to assume their role. The speech was read out by Sulayman Mutawally, minister for cabinet affairs and state minister for local government.

GHALI SAYS ISRAEL SHOULD SIGN NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

NC161630 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 May--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today said that Israel should sign the nuclear test ban treaty to prove to Arab public opinion that it wants peace. Dr Butrus Ghali pointed out that during the Blair House discussions, Egypt asked Israel to sign the nuclear test ban treaty. The request was made on the basis of the Egyptian position, which has always supported the signing of this treaty. In conclusion, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: We hope Israel will carry out this measure so that real peace may be established.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES CABLE FROM UK'S THATCHER

NC161339 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Cable from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to President Anwar as-Sadat]

[Text] Cairo, 16 May--I would like to express to your excellency my profound gratitude for your kind congratulatory message and good wishes on my appointment as prime minister. I appreciate your encouragement and your sincere greetings to me. I am looking forward to working in cooperation with your government to further strengthen the strong relations between our countries, and deepen the traditional friendship between the Egyptian and UK peoples.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SUDANESE PRESIDENT

NC161450 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 May--President Anwar as-Sadat received a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. Vice President Husni Mubarak received the message today during a meeting with the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo, Muhammad Mirghani.

MINISTER OF STATE RECEIVES SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIAL

JN121319 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 12 May 79 JN

[Text] Cairo, 12 May--At this meeting today with Sin Tong-won, South Korean deputy foreign minister, Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, reviewed the various international issues that concern the two countries, particularly current developments in the Middle East area. The discussion during the meeting also dealt with the cooperation between Egypt and South Korea in various fields.

Deputy Minister's Departure

NC131011 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 May 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 May--South Korean deputy foreign minister Sin Tong-won left Cairo for his country this morning after a 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

TRIAL OF LIBYAN AGENTS TO RESUME 4 JUNE

NC161100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 May--Security authorities have arrested accused fugitive Muhammad Ahmad Diyas, deputy leader of a terrorist organization. Diyas and others were trained by Libyan intelligence to carry out terrorist and sabotage operations on public utilities and installations in the country and to forcibly annex the Egyptian oasis of Siwa to Libya.

All 20 accused in this case have now been arrested. The supreme military court here will resume its hearings on 4 June in the presence of all the accused. At its next session, the court will hear the defense plea now that the military prosecutor has concluded his statement, demanding maximum penalties--ranging from hard labor to death--against the accused for committing their crimes during war time.

GOVERNMENT TO RECEIVE ATOMIC REACTOR FROM UNITED STATES

NC131012 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0858 GMT 13 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 May--The magazine OCTOBER reports today that the U.S. Government has agreed to give an atomic reactor to Egypt, and that the reactor will be installed near (Aidi Karir). The magazine adds that the minister of electricity, Mustafa Kamal Sabri, who is now visiting the United States, will bring with him the U.S. plan for building the atomic reactor.

JAPAN TO GRANT EGYPT $56 MILLION LOAN

JN121510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 12 May 79 JN

[Text] Cairo, 12 May--Japan and Egypt today signed a loan agreement amounting to 12 billion Japanese yen, or some $56 million. The loan will be used to increase the operations of the Suez Canal Authority.

'Ali Jamal an-Nasir, Egyptian minister of state for economic cooperation, and Muzuo Kuroda, Japanese ambassador in Cairo, today signed the loan documents between the two governments. Egypt will pay back the loan over a 30-year period at 3.5 percent interest. There will be a 10-year grace period.

The loan is part of the 30 billion Japanese yen which the Japanese Government pledged last January to give to Egypt in 1979. Of this amount, 10 billion yen will be used to finance development projects, 8 billion yen will be given in the form of commodity loans, and 12 billion yen will be given to the Suez Canal Authority--the loan which was signed today.

AL-AKHBAR: REJECTIONIST STATES 'ANXIOUS' OVER SOVIET POLICY

LD150839 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 May 79 p 6 LD

[Editorial: "The Rejectionists in a State of Anxiety"]

[Excerpts] The rejectionists, whom Moscow enlisted to act against and attack Egypt, have begun to feel anxious about their fate. They have begun to realize that Moscow has used them as a cat's paw to serve its ends and ambitions, and now has rebuffed them without even trying to help them save face among Arabs and non-Arabs.

Citing Arab diplomatic sources, news agencies attributed this anxiety among the rejectionists to "the effects of the SALT-II treaty on Soviet Middle East policy, and the sympathy the Soviets have been showing toward the attitudes of Washington and Israel." The diplomatic sources said that this sympathy has become evident in several matters:

1. The Soviet Union is once again organizing mass emigration to Israel. The number of those who have emigrated during the past 4 months has reached 17,000, which is a record figure.

2. The Soviet Union is holding daily contacts with Israel in connection with restoring relations to the level which existed before 1967.

3. The Soviet Union failed to respond to Syria's demand for sophisticated Soviet weapons promised to it earlier.

Indeed, this is a tragic story. The cat's paws are paying a heavy price without getting anything in return. Their reward has been the present Soviet policy in the Middle East, Soviet sympathy with Washington's attitude, and the Soviet inclination toward supporting Israel and resuming relations with it.

If the rejectionists are feeling anxious because of Soviet policy and because the Soviets are abandoning them, this anxiety is not due to their concern for the Middle East, or for the Palestinian problem, or for the Israeli attitude, but rather for their fate and for their own persons. The phrase "confrontation and steadfastness" was all they could put forward to justify, to their own people and the world, their existence and their attitude to the problem which they have been exploiting in order to obtain money from here and there. But what can they tell the people now that their cause is no longer relevant and after they have seen the Soviet Union disinclined to give them sophisticated and unsophisticated arms, but rather inclined toward Israel? Indeed, it is a situation that calls for concern and feelings of sorrow for the rejectionist group.

'ABD AL-QUDDUS SAYS ISRAELI ATTITUDE THREATENS PEACE

LD161019 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 May 79 p 5 LD

[Ihsan 'Abd al-Quddus article: "The First Thing That Threatens the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty"]

[Text] The peace treaty concluded between Egypt and Israel was supposed, assuming the presence of good will, to have the effect of brining about a change in Israeli attitudes and behavior toward the Arabs and Egypt, so that Israel would prove that this treaty has opened the door to a new world heralding new hopes or, at least, that it would not put Egypt in an embarassing political situation and in an awkward position vis-a-vis the rest of the Arab countries.

It was assumed, for example, that Israel would change its method of retaliating against fedayeen operations by attacking the country from which they come and would adopt a different method in protecting its borders, such as the method adopted by any reputable state which is the target of such operations. This would be so as not to compel Egypt to adopt a stand that contradicts the peace treaty or is incompatible with the image that Egypt would like to preserve before the Arab world--the image of the state which is making peace with Israel and which, through such peace, is serving the whole Arab situation.

Israel was also supposed, for example, to stop building new settlements on the West Bank or, at least, to postpone its plans to build such settlements, so that its treaty with Egypt would not become a political embarrassment while it is still nascent as a treaty and not yet fully grown into a reality that can be recognized.

It was assumed that the official Israeli tone would moderate in making statements and declarations affecting the future of the area, so that it would indeed reflect the desire for peace and the peace objectives.

Nothing like this has happened.

On the contrary, after signing the treaty with Egypt Israel appears as if it is afraid of nothing. Its attacks on Lebanon under the pretext of responding to fedayeen attacks have become more audacious and extensive. It has imposed its might on all events in Lebanon. It has gone to the extent of declaring its conditions, like a state that has actually occupied Lebanon. It said that the Palestinians must leave Lebanon and disperse among Saudi Arabia, the gulf states, Libya and Algeria; that the Syrian forces must withdraw; that a Christian state must be established in Lebanon, and so forth--all of which are conditions that Israel is declaring openly and frankly. Until such conditions are met, the Israeli attacks will continue and the Israeli Air Force will continue to control Lebanese air space.

The Arab countries can do nothing except express anger, either through words or through appealing to the Security Council. Meanwhile, since the treaty Egypt's voice has become incapable of uttering anything except expressions of regret. Nothing but regret--regret if an aggression is committed against Lebanon and regret if a fedayeen operation is carried out against Israel. Israel is imposing on Egypt the expression of regrets.

There is another question which Israel has raised against Egypt--I repeat, against Egypt--whose significance many people failed to notice or did not try to understand. The question is that of arming Egypt.

It is assumed that one of the strong reasons that drove Egyptian policy toward strengthening relations with the United States is Egypt's need for arms. It is known that, as the Soviet Union stopped supplying Egypt with arms and spare parts, Egypt declared itself free of commitment to buy in the Soviet market and free to deal with all the arms markets. But if the Soviet Union has stopped arming Egypt it means that Egypt can no longer deal with any of the arms markets in the socialist bloc--neither Czechoslovakia, East Germany or elsewhere--and that it has become entirely dependent on the Western markets. Like the Eastern bloc markets, the Western markets are subject to the policy of the superpower to which their countries are linked. In other words, they are subject to U.S. policy. Even France and Britain would not accept entering into an arms agreement outside the limitations of the international policy which they are linked.

In other words Egypt depends on the United States whether it imports its arms directly from it or from the West European markets.

In fact Egypt has been able to develop its relations with the United States to the point where the United States became convinced of its reponsibility to arm Egypt.

At this point Israel moved. It moved against Egypt.

Menahem Begin made a statement in which he said that he does not agree with the United States supplying arms to Egypt. Why? Because Egypt is no longer in need of arms.

That is what Menahem Begin said. He even said that Egypt was at war only with Israel and since the peace treaty has been signed Egypt is no longer at war and, therefore, has no enemies to fight. It does not need arms for war. This, Begin said, is the opposite of the Israeli position, as Israel is still in need of arms because it is still at war with the rest of the Arab countries.

Moshe Dayan reiterated these Israeli views during his tour of some Asian countries, adding to them a new interpretation. He does not want the United States to arm Egypt. Why? Because he does not know what might happen after the departure of Anwar as-Sadat. A new Egyptian regime might come out and declare war on Israel and use the U.S. weapons that were given to As-Sadat.

In other words, Dayan sees the peace between Egypt and Israel as dependent on the person of Anwar as-Sadat and not on the logic of peace, or international commitments, or the inclinations of the Egyptian people--only on the person of Anwar as-Sadat, after whom nobody knows what is going to happen.

The seriousness of this Israeli logic does not lie in how far U.S. policy might go along with it but in the fact that it defines Israel's attitude toward the cause of peace. This logic confirms that the Israel mentality assumes that, in order to guarantee peace with Israel and preserve Israel's security, it is not enough to have a demilitarized zone, equal to three-fourths of the total area of Sinai, to separate it from any Egyptian forces but it also requires--in order to insure peace and security--that the whole of Egypt become a demilitarized state.

This is the danger that is threatening Egypt--a danger based on two assumptions according to the Israeli logic:

Egypt will exist either as a demilitarized state, or, if it can complete its armament, as a state under the threat of Israeli attack in the era after As-Sadat or in the event that Israel decides that As-Sadat has changed his peaceful intentions.

What is Egypt's logic?

What is said so far is that Egypt needs to attain the highest and best armament level it can in order to protect itself against transgression of its borders if Libya or Ethiopia invade Sudan, as well as to protect itself against Libyan attacks backed by Eastern bloc forces. Such an armament level would also enable it to participate with any Arab or African country that requests its collaboration in defensive battles.

Such is what is said and the general picture that is given of Egypt's role.

But the real picture of Egypt is that it is in urgent need of armament so that it would reach at least the level of Israeli armament, enabling it to live in peace while reassured about the balance of power between itself and Israel.

Egypt wants the peace that it wants and not that which is imposed on it; that is, it wants always to be powerful so as to be able to defend peace. This contradicts the Israeli mentality that wants peace to be dictated to other countries--the peace of the victorious imposed on the vanquished. That is the peace that Begin once described as similar to what was concluded between Germany and France.

The question of arming Egypt will not be resolved simply and easily. It is a question that could give rise to a violent battle between Egypt and Israel and a political battle in the United States. Which of them will be able to convince the United States of its logic?

Political battles sometimes go beyond political boundaries--to boundaries far beyond.

Political thinkers predict, or at least imagine, that the first thing that would threaten the Egyptian-Israeli treaty would be the question of Egypt's right to complete its armament and how far it can exercise this right.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM COMMENTS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT

ID170909 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 12 May 79 p 8 LD

[Sa'id Sunbul article: "We Welcome Foreign Investments, But..."]

[Excerpts] I have been and still am against the incessant talk about the millions and billions that are flowing into Egypt. Anyone listening to the information media would think that Egypt was receiving $1 billion or 1 million pounds monthly or even daily.

Last week a group of U.S. businessmen arrived in Cairo to explore the possibilities of joint investments in certain projects.

As usual, the information media spoke excessively about the U.S. mission and created the impression that it is going to implement projects worth hundreds of millions and maybe billions of pounds. Such talk is incorrect and causes more harm than good because, when there is much talk about projects and the citizen looks around for such projects and finds nothing, he will be disappointed. He must be told that the implementation of projects takes years.

On this occasion I would like to say a couple of things about foreign investments.

Foreign investments are needed. This is a fact. But foreign investments do not solve Egypt's problem, which is another fact.

The nature of foreign investments, whether in Egypt or elsewhere, is that they are inclined toward projects that bring profits to the investors and avoid projects that do not yield the desired profit, even if these are vital and essential for the country that opens its doors to the investors. Which means that all investments, whether by foreign or local capital, seek profits and avoid losses; they seek to achieve private interests before the interests of the country in which they operate.

Some might ask: What is wrong with that? We too want profitable, not loss-making, projects. This is true.

But there is another kind of project. Such projects are vital and indispensable. In fact, without them it is difficult to achieve development in Egypt. These are infrastructure projects that are necessary for economic development. They are represented in roads, communications, telephone, water, electricity, ports and railroads and other such utilities and services that are essential for any economic development.

Such projects, despite their importance, necessity and the urgent need for them, do not attract or interest the foreign investor. So we cannot ask foreign investors to implement them.

Some might ask: Why do we not ask the investors to contribute to such projects since they are necessary?

The reason is simple. The investor's condition is profit, which is a right.

In summary, foreign investments can achieve for Egypt higher production, more employment and greater technology, but in the end are incapable of carrying out infrastructure projects that we need to implement today and not tomorrow.

This is a fact that I want to put on record, so that we will be aware of the reality of our problems and not imagine that Egypt's problems can be solved through foreign investments alone.

Egypt's problems can be solved only by the Egyptians themselves. What is more important than money and investments is the will to build and to change.

The prosperity that we desire cannot be achieved with words that are simply reiterated in the media or by promises made here and there. The prosperity that we want can be achieved through effort, work and patience, through living with reality and insisting on a change to a better and brighter reality.

AL-AKHBAR DENIES KHOMEYNI'S RIGHT TO ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP

LD170925 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 May 79 p 4 LD

[Editorial: Khomeyni and the Judgment of Islam"]

[Excerpts] From his seclusion in Qom, Ayatollah Khomeyni has issued a statement calling on the Islamic states to break off relations with Egypt because it has signed a peace treaty with Israel. We do not know who gave Khomeyni the right to be the leader of Muslims in all countries, to manage their affairs as he wishes, and to forbid any of their actions in the way he likes. We do not know, indeed, if Khomeyni meant to pass an Islamic judgement in the statement he issued, or was carried away by the campaign of abuse against Egypt or the competition for leadership of the Islamic or Arab world at Egypt's expense.

Indeed we do not know. Nor do we know how Khomeyni allowed himself to address the Islamic countries in the name of Islam, while he himself branded Islam with the most abominable actions when he allowed bloodbaths in Iran and sent Iranian citizens to mass execution without trial or care for religion, law or custom. What is even more strange is that he made this statement to the Islamic countries and spoke in the name of Islam at the very time he was sending 21 Iranian citizens to be executed without trial. If we counted the number of Iranian citizens who have lost their lives on Khomeyni's orders, we would see how great a tragedy it is--a tragedy that no nation has experienced in any of the eras of coercion and repression. Yet Khomeyni speaks in the name of Islam.

Islam is not a green or red turban; nor is it a slogan to mislead the ignorant, a call by an ayatollah or a meaningless title. Rather Islam is the religion of right, justice and magnanimity.

First, Khomeyni is called upon to correct his Islam before he can speak in its name, or claim the leadership of Muslims or the right to be the guardian of Islam and to pass judgement on the actions of other Muslims. We are not aware that Islam allows killing a Muslim without trial. Indeed Islam, as evident in the holy Koran, affirms that hell will be the fate of whoever deliberately kills a Muslim. Khomeyni has ordered the killing of hundreds and even thousands of Iranian citizens, and violated the sanctity of the Iranian people in a manner which neither Islam nor any other religion approves, and which is unacceptable to human conscience.

TECHNICAL, CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH YUGOSLAVIA

JN161223 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May--Iraq and Yugoslavia signed a technical and cultural cooperation agreement here today, covering the next 3 years. The agreement provides for exchanging educational, scientific and cultural delegations; for concluding bilateral agreement; for developing cooperation and for exchanging professors in universities and educational institutes.

The agreement is in implementation of the cooperation agreement in the field of education, science and culture signed between the two countries in Belgrade on 23 March 1979.

VIETNAMESE ENVOY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD, MAKES STATEMENT

JN161709 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May--Nguyen Van Hieu, personal envoy of Vietnamese President Ton Duc Thang to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and minister of culture of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, arrived here this evening for a visit to Iraq that will last several days. The Vietnamese envoy told INA he is carrying a letter from the Vietnamese president to President al-Bakr dealing with relations between the two countries and the struggle being waged by the liberated world peoples against imperialism, Zionism and racism.

Nguyen Van Hieu said he will discuss with Iraqi officials ways to consolidate relations between the two friendly countries in various fields and will brief them on Vietnam's views on the forthcoming summit conference of the nonalined countries scheduled to be held in Havana in September. The Vietnamese envoy lauded Iraq's role in supporting the nonalined movement. He said: We are sure that the two countries will do their best to make the conference successful.

YAR ENVOY LEAVES IRAQ AFTER DELIVERING MESSAGE

JN160850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 May 79JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May--Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, YAR minister of information and culture and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's personal envoy, left here this morning after delivering a message to President al-Bakr from YAR President Salih on bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab area. Al-'Arashi stated that he and President al-Bakr exchanged views on means of unifying the two parts of Yemen and on the most important Arab issues.

VENEZUELAN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD FROM KUWAIT

JN161729 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 May--Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti this evening arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait for a 2-day visit to Iraq, as part of his current tour of the oil-exporting countries.

Calderon said he will acquaint Iraqi officials with the changes that have taken place in Venezuela and the desire of the new government in his country to strengthen relations and coordinate stands among the OPEC countries. He said he will also discuss the economic problems of the developing countries and the effect of oil prices on their balance of payments.

STATE MINISTER IBRAHIM REPORTS TO CABINET ON TALKS ABROAD

JN161604 Amman JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 16 May--The cabinet met today under Prime Minister Mudar Badran. It heard a report from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim on the discussions and results of the Islamic conference recently held in Fez. The talks he had with the Vatican secretary of state on the Middle East issue and Jerusalem, and the talks he had with the Soviet foreign minister on the various aspects of the Middle East issue and the developments involving it, particularly in the aftermath of the conclusion of the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN JOINT COMMITTEE CONCLUDES MEETINGS

JN130612 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 May 79 pp 1, 16 JN

[Text] Amman--Hamid Abu Sittah, head of the PLO's Department for Occupied Homeland Affairs, left Amman for Damascus yesterday, having led the Palestinian side in the meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee at the end of last week.

Abu Sittah said that the meetings were positive and fruitful and initiate the implementation stage within the framework of supporting the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories.

In an interview with AD-DUSTUR, Abu Sittah said that the Arab brothers' financing of a fund to support the people in the occupied territories is a duty that does not need to be pointed out. He said that the Baghdad summit conference had decided to allocate the sum of $150 million toward the establishment of a fund to support the steadfastness of the people of the occupied territories.

Referring to the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories in the face of the pressures and plots to which they are subjected, Abu Sittah said: We are sure our people are determined to reject the so-called administrative self-rule. We are confident that our people are firmly united in their opposition to the plots that are being concocted against them, both inside and outside the occupied territories.

He said that the PLO is cooperating with the sister states to explain the reality of the situation in the areas and the effects of the separate peace treaty on the efforts to achieve a just solution.

Regarding the effect of the Zionist threats and aggressions--in which sophisticated U.S. weapons are used--on the morale of our people in Lebanon, Abu Sittah said: Our morale is very high and it is heightened every day with the increase in the dangers. Our people will undoubtedly remain stronger than all the threats and dangers.

On the possibility of holding a meeting of the Front for Steadfastness and Cooperation, Abu Sittah said: Perhaps the implementation of the Baghdad conference resolutions fulfills the greater part of the front's resolutions. We are striving to bring about full implementation of Baghdad resolutions.

AL-HUSS RESIGNS AT CABINET SESSION, SARKIS REPLIES

NC161520 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Excerpts] The Cabinet of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss submitted its resignation during the cabinet session at noon today. The Cabinet convened under President Ilyas Sarkis. His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis accepted the Cabinet's resignation and asked the head and members of the Cabinet to stay in office until a new Cabinet is formed.

After the Cabinet session, Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Jmar Musayki made the following official statement:

At the beginning of the meeting His Excellency President Sarkis briefed the Cabinet on the results of his Damascus visit. He said: Our visit to Damascus took place in an atmosphere of amity and understanding. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian brothers met us with extreme cordiality, which left a very good impression on us.

The talks on the various levels also took place in the same spirit. These talks dealt with various issues. I personally sensed brother President Hafiz al-Asad's great interest in all issues of concern to both countries and his complete grasp of these issues.

President Sarkis added: We raised the issues with frankness and simplicity. We discussed the factors and suitable solutions to the problems. There was a sincere desire on both sides to achieve solutions. The talks the prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers held with their Syrian counterparts were also characterized by frankness and a true desire for brotherly cooperation.

Concluding his speech, President Sarkis said: The talks deal with basic outlines. Contacts will take place later on the various levels to draw up the practical details to translate these outlines.

The Cabinet then discussed a number of general issues and transactions listed on its agenda and made appropriate decisions.

Before the end of the meeting, the prime minister spoke about the general situation and the Cabinet situation at present, and concluded by submitting the Cabinet's resignation to his excellency the president of the republic. He thanked the president for the complete confidence he placed in the Cabinet since it assumed office.

His excellency the president replied to this speech, expressing his extreme appreciation for the continuous efforts exerted by the head and members of the Cabinet since its formation, and for their serious and sincere work for the good of the homeland. He also expressed his recognition of the government's achievements and its untiring work to maintain the unity of Lebanon. He noted that the work and achievements made by the government under difficult circumstances--circumstances through which no other country has passed be registered to its credit, with much appreciation.

His excellency the president added: This is not the first time that Prime Minister al-Huss has expressed his desire to resign. In his political positions he has always acted with a democratic spirit and according to parliamentary tradition.

The president then announced his acceptance of the resignation of the Cabinet, and asked its head and members to remain in office until a new Cabinet is formed.

Resignation Text

NC161441 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text of letter of resignation submitted by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss to President Ilyas Sarkis on 16 May--read by announcer]

[Text] To His Excellency President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis:

We have undertaken not to resign ourselves to stagnation in any way at any time. In a statement delivered to the Chamber of Deputies at its session on 19 December 1978, we outlined our views regarding the reality and dimensions of the Lebanese crisis and the possibilities of the required solution. We concluded by saying that the political choice at that stage was limited to two alternatives: either to submit a formula for detente and then form a coalition cabinet consisting of the majority that agreed to this formula--and this was our first choice, if possible--or to form a cabinet of politicians that could assume the responsibility of presenting the formula for national detente. In that statement, we affirmed that we did not object to any feasible possibility for a solution to the crisis, and that the only thing we rejected was stagnation--this despite the fact that we had our own view of the desired detente formula. Although this formula would not realize all the ambitions of our young people for the future of their country, it could have opened a window to a better future. This is the least one can do under circumstances which require profound changes and do not allow a revolution in views and concepts.

For the sake of establishing a capable and just state--without which there can be no security, stability, or reassurance--and based on our concept of a detente formula, we have been calling for a political agreement in order to use this weapon, the sharpest weapon in the hands of the legal authority, when we decide to confront its opponents; first by isolating them, then exposing them, and finally overcoming them.

However, our view of detente remained hidden, and the weapon to combat the situation remained in its sheath. We remained in a state of total stagnation, and either had to abide by it or leave.

Inasmuch as outside factors and influences had infiltrated through internal contradictions and divisions to detonate the situation in Lebanon and maintain the state of bleeding, we believe detente to be the correct course to achieve the essential measure of coexistence within the Middle East issue so as not to have a disengagement, insofar as practically possible, between the Lebanese issue and the Middle East issue until a just solution is reached for the problem of the region compatible with Arab aspirations.

Therefore, amid the stagnation that surrounded us, we have considered more than once activating the situation by resigning. We discussed the matter with high-level men of influence at the time. Although reasons for such a move existed then--and there is no room for explaining them now--we did not undertake this move earlier for two reasons: The first was the fear that such a move would lead to a vacuum or crisis if it proved impossible to form an alternative Cabinet with the desired speed. There were also the dangers such a move might involve in light to the sharp divisions in the political arena. The second consideration was our involvement recently in important national issues such as the national defense law and the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south. We could not permit ourselves, as officials who sense their national responsibility, to abandon such issues and we wanted to see them through.

Today, after the national defense law has been issued and is being applied in a serious manner; after we have successfully carried out the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south and shown the international community its responsibility vis-a-vis the rights of Lebanon in the south: and after a parliamentary majority has officially asked us to resign, we are free of both considerations. We now see the need for departure, hoping that this move may cause a change in the facts of political reality that will help remove the country from the vicious circle of stagnation in which it finds itself.

It is known that this situation was the reason for hindering or freezing many plans in the development, construction, and social spheres which our government formulated at an early stage. No way could be seen on the horizon for achieving what we wanted to achieve in these vital spheres as long as the political situation remains the same.

Therefore, recalling a statement I made some time ago in which I expressed my readiness to resign after the Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting, and since this meeting has taken place, I submit to your excellency the resignation of my Cabinet.

On my behalf and on behalf of my ministerial colleagues, I thank you for the confidence you placed in us, noting the atmosphere of frankness, nobility, and tolerance which prevailed in our relationship over the differences of opinion which at times arose in the discharge of duty during this difficult period.

As for the role played by our government in serving the homeland, under the most difficult circumstances and delicate stages which this homeland has experienced throughout its history, we will leave it to history to judge. The judgement of history will inevitably be fair to us, even if the present time has been unfair.

May God grant you success in doing whatever is good for Lebanon and for the dignity of its steadfast people. Long live Lebanon.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY BLOC TO MEET WITH SARKIS

NC161257 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] In a meeting today, the independent parliamentary bloc demanded that one of its members be entrusted with the formation of a new government. A delegation of the bloc will meet with the president for this purpose. The leading members of the bloc include former Prime Ministers Rashid Karami and Sa'ib Salam, and Deputy Zaki Mazbudi. Father Sim'an ad-Duwayhi and Deputy 'Abd al-Latif (al-Jamil) resigned from the bloc today.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT DISCUSSES AL-HUSS RESIGNATION

JN162102 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 May--The Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement held its weekly meeting here this evening.

The Central Political Council issued a statement on the meeting saying that the council discussed developments in the general situation in the country following the resignation of the government of Dr Salim Al-Huss and the issues that will appear after the resignation.

LEBANESE FORCES COMMAND HOLDS SPECIAL SESSION

NC162101 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 16 May 79 NC

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command held a 4-hour extraordinary session this evening. The command studied the recent security incidents and means to prevent their recurrence.

After the session, the official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command made the following statement:

The Lebanese Forces Command Council held an extraordinary meeting at its headquarters from 1700 to 2100 on Wednesday, 16 May 1979, under the chairmanship of the forces commander, Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, and in the presence of Command Council member Dory Sham'un and the other members. The discussions centered on the painful incidents that recently took place in the area of Furn ash-Shubbak, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Ash-Shiyah and As-Sayfi. The following measures have been adopted:

1. The Command Council [word indistinct] the sorrow and grief of the relatives of the innocent victims who fell during the (?recent clashes) in the southern suburb. They consider these victims as martyrs of the Lebanese resistance.

2. The Command Council heard a detailed report revealing the background of the coincidence in timing between the outbreak of the clashes in the southern suburb and the Lebanese-Syrian summit in Damascus.

3. The Command Council was briefed by the chief of the general staff on the executive stages of the various field and disciplinary measures the command has been compelled to adopt, after it transpired that the preliminary measures were not sufficient.

4. The Command Council expresses its satisfaction with the response of the inhabitants of the southern suburb who welcomed units of the Lebanese forces with great enthusiasm.

5. The Command Council has decided to prosecute and inflict the heaviest penalties on anyone who contemplates commiting any action against the security, safety and property of the citizens, particularly against those who attempt vengeance.

6. The Command Council has adopted a series of executive and administrative measures, which will be announced successively, aimed at consolidating security in the southern suburb. The competent organs have begun implementing these measures as of tonight.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC170721 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Text] The security situation in the city center and the southern suburb of Beirut continued during the night, as it was throughout the day yesterday. Three explosions were heard between Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, but their location and source could not be determined. The Lebanese forces continued to patrol Furn ash-Shubbak area following the recent incidents. They have consolidated steps to maintain calm and a state of relaxation and assurance among the citizens.

Reports from southern Lebanon indicate that Israeli gunboats are preventing ships from sailing into Tyre harbor.

Major Haddad's warning to At-Tiri village to join him still stands. He has asked the people in Shaqra to guard their town and prevent strangers from entering it.

The people in Bra'Shit have handed over to the Irish contingent command a French national called Patrick and was carrying maps of southern Lebanon, a recorder and binoculars. An investigation by the Irish force in Bra'shit revealed that he was doing research in fighting areas. He was found to be carrying notes written in Spanish and a map of southern Lebanon on which he had circled in pencil the villages of Tibnin, Bra'shit, Shaqra and the Arnun Fortress. He claimed to be carrying out research in these hot areas, and said he was staying at a Beirut Hotel.

VOL REPORTS SYRIAN NATIONALISTS ACTIVITY

NC171138 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1015 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Text] Armed members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and their supporters in Duhur ash-Shuwayr and the upper area this morning occupied some houses in Zighrin, Al-Juwar and 'Ayn at-Tuffahah. They kidnaped two citizens and set up armed barricades on the main road to create tension and fear.

Relative calm prevails in the capital and its southern suburb interrupted by intermittent firing in the traditional areas. Caution must be observed in these areas.

MONDAY MORNING INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

JN170837 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 14-20 May 79 pp 16-21 JN

[Interview granted by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Claude Khury and Nadim abu Ghanmam in Fez, Morocco "last week"]

[Text] [Question] How does Syria visualize the solution of the Middle East crisis now, after the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty? Would you favor a return to the Geneva conference or the American-Soviet statement on the Middle East?

[Answer] The Camp David agreements and the peace treaty have destroyed all the peaceful efforts to arrive at a permanent, just peace in the region.

The treaty is a total contradiction of all UN resolutions. With all its provisions of American military commitments to Israel, it is a step in the direction of regional detonation, not regional peace.

If it is a step toward peace, as the Americans and As-Sadat claim, why this massive military aid to Israel? Why these thousands of millions of dollars' worth of the latest American weapons for Israel?

I say it very simply: What has happened is an act of hostility against the peace movement.

Any settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict will be no settlement at all, nor even a step toward peace, if it does not spring from the principles adopted by the Arabs in their various summit conferences. These conferences defined the basic principles or a just and permanent peace: Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to return to their land, determine their own fate and establish their own independent state in Palestine.

Any settlement which does not rest on those principles would be no settlement at all; it would be capitulation imposed on the Arabs.

We, the Arab nation, naturally want a just and lasting peace in the region, but all the overtures that have been played so far give no indication that a just and lasting peace is approaching. As I said, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty represents an assault on peace, on the Arabs, on the Arabs' rights.

There is no doubt that the natural setting, the natural institution in which the Middle Eastern situation can be discussed is the United Nations. We cling to international legitimacy and the UN resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue and the issue of the Israeli occupation of other Arab territories.

[Question] What are the obstacles that are delaying the Syrian-Iraqi union?

[Answer] There are no obstacles. The Syrian-Iraqi union is a great national initiative--one of the greatest and most important actions that have been undertaken in the Arab arena in many years.

We and our brothers in Iraq are now engaged in discussions about the best formula for party unity and constitutional unity. We have come a long way, and things are going smoothly.

Frankly, this is the first time the Arabs undertake a great, historic action without any media noise. It is our view that the magnitude of the achievement should speak for itself, and that we should not turn the union into a media affair.

There are no obstacles. There are discussions, dialogue and an exchange of views. We will arrive at a formula for party and constitutional unity, and we will do so in the near future.

[Question] Does "near future" mean months or weeks?

[Answer] It will come in a matter of weeks, maybe sooner.

[Question] Will the union be announced formally after a meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr?

[Answer] There will be a meeting of the higher committee formed under the provisions of the National Action Charter. During this meeting, all the points that have been agreed upon will be announced.

[Question] How would you evaluate Syrian-Palestinian relations at this time?

[Answer] They are good, solid relations, which is only natural.

[Question] And your relations with the Soviet Union?

[Answer] As you know, Syrian-Soviet relations are solid-based on foundations of friendship and mutural respect. They are good relations, which, again, is only natural, since, as everyone knows, the Soviet Union stands by the Arabs in their just struggle against the Zionist entity.

[Question] Are you finding any difficulty securing arms from Moscow?

[Answer] All matters relating to security are not open to discussion in the information media.

[Question] The U.S. Congress has asked the Carter administration not to give Syria any aid if it does not stop its opposition of the Camp David initiative. What is Syria's reaction to this move?

[Answer] Syria is an independent, sovereign state, and its political positions are not a function of the aid, be it significant or insignificant, which this or that country might offer.

The United States of America has played a bad role by attacking Arab rights, by its attitude on the Palestinian issue, by entrenching Israeli aggression and by providing Israel with all the instruments of death and destruction which are being used against the Arabs' children, women, aged people and other citizens.

The Americans would be making a big mistake if they thought that a few millions--or all the money in the United States of America--could change Syria's policy, which springs from national principles and is aimed at the service of the Arab nation.

Neither the discontinuation, nor the reduction, nor the increase of aid can affect our relations with the United States, which are determined by our national policies, goals and interests--not by aid, be that aid significant or insignificant.

[Question] How would you describe current Syrian-American relations?

[Answer] Those are clear enough. The United States is supporting the aggressor in the region. That is our evaluation, and we believe it is an objective one. The nature of our bilateral relations can be judged in the light of that evaluation.

[Question] The Israeli foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, has said that Israel may pull out of the Golan Heights after talks and a peace treaty with Syria. What is your response to that statement?

[Answer] Syria's view is that the core of our struggle with the Zionist entity is Palestine. The Arab-Israeli conflict did not start in 1967. It started in 1917, with the Balfour Declaration, when international Zionism, in league with international imperialism, started moving into Palestine and displacing its people to establish the Israeli state. The 1967 war was a consequence of Zionist presence in Palestine.

Our responsibility toward the Palestinian cause is not that of a supporting country: It is a responsibility which springs from our national commitment to the cause and people of Palestine.

The Golan, of course, is a cherished part of Syria's land and the land of the Arab nation, but Palestine can never be bartered for the Golan. The liberation of the Golan would be a step toward regaining the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, but not an alternative to those rights.

For these reasons, Dayan's Golan peace is rejected. Whoever wants to talk peace must start by talking about Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

[Question] Sa'd Haddad has declared an independent "Free Lebanon" in the south, and some have seen this move as the beginning of Lebanese partition. Do you share this view, and how do you think Lebanese partition can be avoided?

[Answer] Sa'd Haddad did not come up with anything new. Sa'd Haddad is nothing but a tool in the hands of the Israelis. All he did was formalize the Israeli occupation of part of Lebanon's territory.

The struggle against Sa'd Haddad is part of our struggle against Israel.

This move on Haddad's part, of course, is a natural consequence of the treaty As-Sadat signed with Begin. We cannot view this move as something that has nothing to do with that treaty.

But to say that the move will lead to partition--That is untrue and unrealistic. Speaking objectively, Lebanon cannot be partitioned. Despite the deep gulf between the various Lebanese parties, our brothers in Lebanon are all committed to one thing: Lebanese unity. In addition to that, Syria is committed to the preservation of Lebanese unity. Whoever is thinking of establishing sectarian or non-sectarian states in Lebanon knows that he has to deal with the Lebanese people, the Arab nation and everyone else who wants Lebanese unity and the sovereignty of the Lebanese state.

[Question] Does this mean that any attempt to partition Lebanon would be crushed by Syria?

[Answer] This Arab nation, either directly or indirectly, would crush any attempt to partition Lebanon. We would not stand idly by should such an attempt be made. And I believe that the sweeping majority of the Lebanese people--indeed 99 percent of the Lebanese people--stand by us in our opposition to anyone who wishes to fragment Lebanon and destroy its unity.

[Question] One member of the Lebanese Front has predicted that a Syrian-Israeli war will break out in Lebanon, last a few days and end with Syrian-Israeli talks and the signing of a peace treaty.

[Answer] Such talk isn't worth commenting on.

If Israel tries to enter Lebanon and take aggressive action against it--in the areas where we are present, of course--we will do what our national duty dictates.

Let no one think that Lebanon can be a trap for Syria, to lead it into defeat and the Camp David policy. Syria can at any time make Lebanon a trap for others.

There is no material or moral justification for anyone to imagine that Syria can possibly accept the Camp David policy. Whoever made that statement is living in a world of make-believe.

[Question] The Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon used to include troops from several Arab countries. Today, the force is made up of Syrian troops only. Do you expect other Arab countries to move in? Iraq, for instance?

[Answer] We have not discussed this matter with our brothers in Iraq or with the Lebanese Government, and this question is the province of the Lebanese Government first and foremost. It must assess the magnitude of the assistance required.

Where we are concerned, we have no objection to the participation of any Arab government in the effort to help Lebanon and further the peace process. Everyone will recall that at the Arab summit conference held in Cairo on the Lebanese issue, President Hafiz al-Asad called on all Arab governments to send contingents to participate in the peace-keeping operation in Lebanon.

[Question] Do you expect the establishment of a Syrian-Iraqi-Jordanian-Palestinian military front to deal with possible Israeli attacks?

[Answer] Suffice it to say that we are doing all we can to develop an Arab position which is best suited for the confrontation of the aggression of the Zionist entity against Lebanon.

[Question] What will the major subjects be on the agenda of next week's Lebanese-Syrian summit?

[Answer] The talks will be all-encompassing. And it is worth mentioning here that the Syrian troops serving with the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon will not withdraw until we find that the circumstances are appropriate for their withdrawa.

[Question] Syrian war planes have been flying over Lebanese territory recently. Can you tell us why?

[Answer] The flights are dictated by security considerations. They are meant to support our forces in Lebanon.

ALGERIA

BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES, NOTES 'IDENTITY OF VIEWS'

LD162250 Brussels in French to Africa and Southern Europe 1500 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] Belgian Foreign Minister Mr Henri Simonet, who arrived in Algiers yesterday, has started talks with his Algerian counterpart Mr Benyahia. The talks, which lasted for nearly 3 hours, were held in an atmosphere of the common desire to strengthen bilateral relations which are already very fruitful. As far as the Middle East is concerned, Mr Simonet reaffirmed the Belgian stance as regards the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement. He said that if this agreement remains a bilateral agreement, it will not solve anything and will soon disappear with all the consequences that this entails. He added that it is therefore advisable to maintain and stimulate a dynamic peace trend and to help the United States to influence Israel. It is indispensable that the problem of Jerusalem and Palestine be settled, the minister added. The distancing of Saudi Arabia from the United States and the violent opposition that exists between Riyadh and Cairo constitute new and revealing elements. The United States must therefore develop a new approach to the issue and Europe must help Washington in this.

As far as African problems are concerned, the Belgian and Algerian foreign ministers have noted an identity of views of the two countries as regards South Africa. As far as Namibia is concerned, Mr Simonet and Mr Benyahia have stated that the process triggered off by the UN resolutions ought to continue. Speaking about Rhodesia, the two stressed the importance of the patriotic front, which must not be ignored and which must be taken into account even if that leads to a stepping up of revolutionary war.

These talks have been considered very positive and enlightening by both sides. They were characterized by a great convergence of views, and even if the assessment of issues discussed showed some differences in approach or nuances, the political determination of the two countries to pursue the same peaceful goals in harmony and in a dialog inspired by identical principles remains their essential element.

IRAQI PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY DEPARTS FOR MOROCCO

JN161242 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Algiers, 16 May--Hikmat Ibrahim, President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's personal envoy and Revolution Command Council member, left for Morocco today at the end of a 2-day visit to Algeria. While in Algiers, Ibrahim conveyed a written message to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid from President al-Bakr. The message deals with implementation of the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference and the conference of Arab foreign and economy ministers.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Algeria, Ibrahim said that President Bendjedid asserted Algeria's readiness to coordinate efforts to contain As-Sadat's treasonous step and consequently to wreck its impact on the Arab and international levels. President al-Bakr's envoy said that his meeting with the Algerian president also dealt with bilateral relations. He asserted that their views were identical regarding the need to deepen the ties between the two fraternal countries.

Ibrahim had conveyed similar messages from President al-Bakr to the Libyan and Tunisian leaders as part of his mission in the Arab Maghreb.

SRV CULTURE MINISTER LEAVES AFTER 2-DAY VISIT

LD160150 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 May 79 LD

[Text] Nguyen Van Hieu, the minister of culture of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, today left Algiers after a 2-day visit during which he was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, to whom he delivered a message from President Ton Duc Thang.

Before leaving, he stated at the airport that the results of his visit were very positive and that he had come to Algeria to inform Algerian leaders about questions of common interest, especially with regard to the nonalined movement. He pointed out in this connection that the viewpoints of the Algerian and Vietnamese Governments are identical and that the two countries were working to bring about the success of the forthcoming nonalined conference due to be held in Havana, the Cuban capital, next September.

LIBYA

NIGER PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE ENDS VISIT 15 MAY

LD151901 Tripoli JANA in English 1751 GMT 15 May 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--President Seyni Kountche of Niger ended his visit to the Jamahiriyah this afternoon.

An official send-off was given to the Niger president at Tripoli International Airport led by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, a number of secretaries of general peoples committees and the ambassadors of the two countries.

In a statement to our representative, President Kountche said that his visit was extremely fruitful, and that he held talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great First of September Revolution, and Staff Major Jallud, on strengthening bilateral relations and on reviewing current international issues in general and Arab and African issues in particular.

President Kountche concluded his statement by expressing his appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality he had received from the Libyan Arab people and their leadership.

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY DELEGATION ARRIVES

LD161228 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 16 May, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Japanese-Arab friendship delegation arrived yesterday in Tripoli headed by a member of the Central Committee of the Japanese Socialist Party and representatives from the Arab-Japanese friendship society on a five-day visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The delegation was received at Tripoli International Airport by the secretary general and members of the Arab-Japanese friendship society and a representative from the foreign liaison bureau.

In a statement to our correspondent the head of the delegation praised the development of the relations between the Japanese and the Libyan Arab people.

He said that the delegation's visit comes within the framework of the consolidation of relations between the Arab and the Japanese peoples.

MOROCCO

HASSAN MEETS FRENCH HISTORIAN, REAFFIRMS SAHARAN STAND

LD162044 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II this morning received at the Royal Palace in Fez the French historian, Professor Charles-Andre Julien who presented his majesty with a copy of his new book entitled "Morocco in Confrontation With Colonialism: 1456-1956." The French professor was accompanied by a press delegation representing various major papers, radios, television and AFP.

His majesty emphasized to the French reporters that Morocco will not accept any bargaining over the Sahara problem. His majesty explained that the war imposed on Morocco places on its shoulders heavy burdens, but the Moroccan people bear these burdens and will never agree to abandon a single square centimeter of their Sahara. We are shouldering the burdens of war and higher oil prices and a fall in the price of phosphate. But this does not mean that we are prepared to bargain for the sake of attaining peace.

On the other hand, his majesty expressed his prepareness to meet the new Algerian president.

With regard to Mauritania, he noted that it was doing all that it could and that it was searching for peace and the Morocco will not attempt to prevent if from doing this on one condition: Namely that the borders between Morocco and Mauritania would not be closed. His majesty stressed that he will never agree to the existence of a barrier between Morocco and black Africa.

His majesty recalled his statement made a few years ago in the Vatican to the effect that Islam in Africa was spreading while Christianity was receding. He said that there is a conspiracy against Islam on the continent, but, nevertheless, all the Muslims in the world will continue to support the Islamic minority there.

BOUCETTA RECEIVES 'ARAFAT ADVISER AL-HASAN

LD161452 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, May 16 (MAP)--M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs, received here Tuesday Hani al-Hasan, political adviser of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Executive Committee.

Hani al-Hasan, who is equally the Palestinian revolution's representative in Tehran, declared to newsmen that Morocco and Boucetta, chairman of the tenth Islamic conference, played a prominent role in the conference's success. He added that the Fez conference was an historical one because it managed to make of the Arab rejection of the Camp David agreements an Islamic rejection.

On the other hand, the political adviser outlined that Al-Quds committee presided over by King Hassan II, will have to play a very important part in order to thwart the plots directed against the Palestinian cause.

Dealing with the Palestinian people's struggle within the Arab occupied territories, Al-Hasan precised that the Palestinian revolution is convinced that victory can only be reached through canons, and for this reason, the armed struggle within the Arab occupied territories has been strengthened more than in the past, especially in Al-Quds to show to the international public opinion that this holy city belongs to the Arabs and not to Israel.

Dealing with the talks he held with Boucetta, Al-Hasan precised that they concerned the countries' positions regarding the Middle East question on the eve of the Security Council's session on this problem, as well as the Al-Quds committee which has been constituted by the 10th Islamic conference.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATE SECRETARY LEAVES FOR WARSAW

LD161444 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, May 16 (MAP)--Abderrahmane Baddou, Morocco's secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, left here Tuesday for Warsaw, on a seven-day official visit to Poland, at the invitation of his Polish counterpart.

In a declaration to newsmen, Baddou indicated that his visit enters within the framework of the strengthening of the two countries bilateral relations.

The secretary of state added that, during his stay in Warsaw, he will proceed, with the Polish officials, to the signing of a judiciary convention between the two countries. Baddou will also evoke with the Polish officials questions of political, economic, cultural and technical interests. It is to be pointed out that a Moroccan delegation comprising several officials from the Moroccan Justice Ministry, and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is, since Sunday, in Warsaw, where it is pursuing the negotiations which started in the current of April, relative to the setting up of the conventions texts.

SUDAN

INA REPORTS ESCALATED ARRESTS BY NUMAYRI REGIME

JN161627 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Excerpt] London, 16 May--Ja'far Numayri's regime continues to escalate its repressive and barbaric campaigns against the nationalist and progressive forces in Sudan.

Arrivals in London from Khartoum said today that the repression organs of the Numayri dictatorial, reactionary regime have recently arrested former Finance Ministry Under Secretary Muhammad 'Ali Jadin, former director of the people's cooperative bank Yusuf Himmat, and several other citizens, after storming their homes. The arrivals add that well over 300 had been detained in Sudan up to the beginning of last week on charges of affiliation with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. They pointed out that among the detainees are personalities known for their patriotism and their opposition to the imperialist and colonialist line followed by Sudan's ruler Numayri.

FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS NUMAYRI ON TRIP TO LIBYA

JN161802 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, May 16 (SUNA)--Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir today briefed President Ja'far Numayri on his recent visit to Libya and the outcome of his contacts with delegates who participated in the Islamic conference held last week in Morocco.

Mr at-Tahir has paid a three-day official visit to Libya on May 6 during which he had lengthy talks with President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

After his meeting with President Numayri, Mr at-Tahir said his talks with President al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan top officials aimed at deepening and promoting relations between the two countries which "were once cool." "I told the president on the outcome of my contacts during the Islamic conference in which I briefed the delegates on Sudan's stand toward the Arab question," Mr at-Tahir said.

He admitted that Sudan abides by resolutions of Rabat and Algiers conferences based on the liberation of the Arab occupied lands, the return of Jerusalem to the Arabs and guaranteeing legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The foreign minister said: "The Libyan brothers have expressed appreciation over President Numayri's efforts to achieve Arab solidarity within a comprehensive strategy for a unified Arab action to guarantee Arab right through political or military means."

Mr at-Tahir disclosed that the next period will witness "a Sudanese active move" in the Arab arena. "Khartoum will shortly witness high-level Arab meetings," he concluded.

TUNISIA

IRAQI ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE TO BOURGUIBA 14 MAY

LD142127 Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 14 May 79 LD

[Text] Tunis--Mr Hikmat Ibrahim, member of the Revolution Command Council and special envoy of the Iraqi head of state, arrived in Tunis this morning bearing a personal message from Iraqi President Hasan al-Bakr to President Bourguiba. The message, he said, concerns the (?implementation of sanctions) adopted by the Baghdad summit, as well as by the Arab ministers of [words indistinct].

During his stay Mr Ibrahim will study with Tunisian officials methods for strengthening the structures of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in order to insure complete success for its functioning.

WESTERN SAHARA

MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA

LD141918 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 79 LD

[Excerpts] Hakim Brahim, foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, held a press conference today at the headquarters of the POLISARIO mission, which was attended by national and foreign journalists.

Hakim Brahim dealt with the dynamic contribution of the POLISARIO for peace and the internal developments which Mauritania has enjoyed since the suspension of fighting by the POLISARIO. He reiterated the good intentions of the POLISARIO to cling to peace, a peace insuring for the Mauritanian people their security and for the Saharan people their right to sovereignty over their territory.

However, the Saharan foreign minister noted the languor affecting the peace momentum as a result of some hesitation in stances and as a result of the French intervention in the issue, especially after the proclaimed stance of Spain and actually represented in the sterility of the Madrid agreement, and he stressed the right to self-determination. Hakim Brahim explained that the renewed intervention of the French Air Force in the present provocative operations against the Saharan people constitutes colonial intention to maintain tension in the region and in fact does not reflect the French statements supporting the right to self-determination and does not serve the peace momentum.

Hakim Brahim then dealt with Mauritanian-Saharan relations. He stressed that the Tripoli protocol agreement constitutes the objective frame for a tangible action along the path of peace. He went on to add that 26 May, the date of the meeting between the POLISARIO and Mauritania, is considered significant and will be a time when the good intentions will become clear and harbored intentions will emerge.

At the end of his press conference, Hakim Brahim expressed his hope that Mauritania will fulfill its pledges and commitments included in the Tripoli protocol agreement, namely because peace will serve Mauritania more than anyone else.

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON FIGHTING

ID160105 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 May 79 ID

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry issued another military statement yesterday in the liberated territories stating that the Saharan revolutionaries attacked on the 9th of this month, for the second time in less than a month, barracks of the Moroccan Royal Forces at Bouinet Torkoz in southern Morocco. The revolutionaries occupied the barracks for a full day after inflicting on the invading royal forces heavy losses in men and equipment--28 soldiers were killed or wounded and large quantities of weapons and military equipment were seized.

During the first quarter of this month, and in the same region, the revolutionaries attacked El-Ababsa and Bouirat and other royal military centers. During these attacks the regime of Hassan II lost more than 20 soldiers killed or wounded.

In the Saharan territories the Saharan Army attacked the positions of the invading forces in Bu Craa and guelta Zemmour, (Buojdour) and (Jdiriyal), killing nine soldiers and wounding 14 others. This is in addition to the destruction or the seizure of military equipment.

BEGIN EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR EHRLICH ECONOMIC PLAN

TA162103 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 May 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has expressed full support for the economic plan presented to the Cabinet by the finance minister. At a meeting with the finance minister and with the governor of the Israel bank, the prime minister said that he would announce his support for the economic plan during the Sunday Cabinet session.

Our correspondent Tzvi Kessler has learned that during today's Cabinet session, the finance minister announced that if the Cabinet does not approve his economic plan in full, it will be forced to take even more severe measures in the near future. Ehrlich also repeated this announcement in the Herut Party economic club.

DRAFT DEFENSE BUDGET PRESENTED TO CABINET

TA141252 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 May 79 p 10 TA

[By Sheraga Meqel]

[Text] The Defense Ministry will spend about 35 billion Israeli pounds in the next 5 years for the Negev redeployment, in addition to the part which will be financed by the U.S. administration. The building of the two new airfields, with U.S. financing, will cost $1.04 billion. This transpires from the Defense Ministry's draft budget.

The changes in the ministry's budget following the peace agreement were brought to the Cabinet for approval yesterday.

This year, 21.2 billion Israeli pounds will be added to the defense budget; 16.2 billion pounds will be U.S.-financed for the construction of the airfields and purchasing equipment, and the rest will be financed by the state budget.

Minister Ehrlich yesterday proposed cutting 3.33 billion pounds from civilian and defense construction expenditure in all parts of the country save the Negev in order to finance the security construction work there and the resulting new settlements with the sum of 0.5 billion pounds. The rest of the sum--2 billion pounds--will come from budget reserves.

PEACE NOW LEADER REPORTS FAVORABLE RECEPTION IN EGYPT

TA161753 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 May 79 p 1 TA

[By 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Dadi Zucker, a Peace Now Movement leader, returned day before yesterday from a visit to Egypt, at the invitation of the institute for strategic and political studies of the Al-Ahram university. Zucker met with Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali and with Egypt's Arab League representative, (Tahsin Bashur). He was invited to participate at the seminary which was attended by the four professors from Israel, and he represented his movement at that seminary.

According to him, Ghali and other senior personalities expressed great appreciation for the contribution of Peace Now to the advocates of peace in Egypt, in the face of the difficult debate with those opposed to the agreement at home and abroad.

(Tahsin Bashur) said that Peace Now was one of the proofs that the people in Israel sincerely desire peace and that every effort made to reach that peace was worthwhile. The Egyptian personalities have reportedly received considerable encouragement from the demonstrations of Peace Now, including the recent planting of vines in Hebron.

On the other hand, Zucker says, the Egyptians warned that the continued establishment of settlements was liable to cause a crisis, and they stressed that an autonomy arrangement as conceived by Israel was an insult to them.

Ghali expressed his wish to establish a framework for the continuation of Egyptian-Israeli cooperation and coexistence through social and political groups from both parties.

TERRORIST EXPELLED TO EGYPT AFTER 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

TA161445 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 May 79 TA

[Text] A terrorist that had been jailed in Israel for 10 years was released and expelled to Egypt before noon. Our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar has learned that the terrorist in question is Isma'il (Sam'an), 40, a senior Egyptian officer who was arrested in Israel and tried for security offenses, including membership in the Fatah organization. He was handed over to two Egyptian security personnel at the border point of Al-Khirbah in the Sinai. An Israeli source told our correspondent that the Egyptian terrorist had in fact completed his sentence a year and a half ago, but he continued to sit in jail because the Egyptians refused to receive him.

JEWISH AGENCY HEAD OPPOSES WEST BANK SETTLEMENT

TA151600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 May 79 TA

[Text] The head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, Prof Ra'anan Weitz, is calling for an immediate cessation of Jewish settlement in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and a concentration on strengthening settlements on the Golan Heights, in the Galilee, the 'Arava and the Negev and especially in the Jordan Rift Valley. At a news conference in Jerusalem Professor Weitz said he intended to begin a public campaign for his settlement program. According to him, the Gush Emunim settlements are political settlements without any settlement background and will, in the end, cause the evacuation of all the territories, including the Jordan Rift Valley, which in his view is vital.

If settlement in Judaea and Samaria is stopped, it will be possible to guarantee that the autonomy will not apply to unpopulated desert areas and the Jordan Rift Valley will then be a part of the State of Israel. Professor Weitz is proposing that 16 new settlements be established over the next 6 months in the Jordan Rift Valley, that a temporary water line be laid from the Kinneret to the Rift Valley which will become the Rift Valley's conduit and also that the settlement of Ma'ale Efrayim be established so that it will be a real town.

The chairman of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department also said that if the prime minister had agreed to concessions on the issue of self-determination for the Palestinians, the president of Egypt would have been willing to exchange the Yamit Strip for a stretch of land of similar size in a nonpopulated area of the Negev, near Nizzana. In Professor Weitz' opinion, a Palestinian state will be established in the end and Israel has lost the Yamit Strip unnecessarily.

Sharon Opposition to Remarks

TA162030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 May 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon said in the Knesset today that the Alinement wants to stop the settlement effort in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights and is even refusing to turn the issue--that of settlement--into a national challenge. Minister Sharon was reacting to remarks made yesterday by the head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, Prof Ra'anan Weitz, that settlement in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza should be stopped at once and other parts of the country should be concentrated on, especially the Jordan Rift Valley. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh says that Professor Weitz made it plain yesterday that he was expressing the Alinement position in his remarks, and because of this Minister Sharon directed his criticism at the Alinement. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh spoke with the minister of agriculture. [begin recording]

[Ben-Melekh] I want to make a distinction between the leadership of the Labor Party and its settlement members, who are doing a great deal to settle the country, the minister of agriculture said, pointing an accusing finger at the party's leadership. A few months ago, Sharon said, Shim'on Peres told U.S. representatives that the Alinement was likely to return the Jordan Rift Valley and the West Bank to Arab possession, and yesterday along came Professor Weitz and closed the circle.

[Sharon] I would define the remarks that were made on the eve of the negotiations as sabotage and as putting weapons into our enemies hands. Luckily for us, it is not Ra'anan Weitz nor those who share his views who today determine where settlement will be.

[Ben-Melekh] Settlement, Minister Sharon said, has suffered from many blunders for many years. Now it is vital to act together everywhere. The settlement impetus now encompasses the 'Aravah, the Negev, the Golan Heights and the Jordan Rift Valley, where the number of settlements has increased from 25 to 50. And Samaria, Sharon said, is very important.

[Sharon] Settlement in Samaria today is no less important than in Galilee. Today Qarney Shomron is no less important than Segev. It is more important. The problem is much more urgent.

[Ben-Melekh] To the claims that because of the slender budgets, the efforts should be concentrated and not dispersed, the minister of agriculture replied that just now, when a wave of enthusiasm recalling the thirties is growing, with Gush Emunim among its leaders, settlement msut not be restricted. The solution to the small resources is a change in standards.

[Sharon] It is impossible today--we are talking about nearly 70 settlements established over the last 2 years, which are in temporary sites--to invest in them what has been invested in recent years. There is no alternative. Even those who regard themselves as experts on settlement must change the standards. There is no alternative but to return to the ways in which we acted 30, 40, even 50 years ago.

[Ben-Melekh] Minister Sharon's security view puts Judaea and Samaria on the same level as the Jordan Rift Valley. The latter is important because of the eastern front, while Judaea is important for the fleshing-out of Jerusalem and Samaria to give strategic depth to the coastal plain.

[Sharon] In addition to giving depth, it gives us control over topographical lines which are most important. The entire coast is controlled from them.

[Ben-Melekh] And for those who fear the precedent of Yamit--that Judaea, Samaria, the Rift Valley and the Gaza Strip will be returned--Sharon said:

[Sharon] This is the heart of the problem and it is impossible, under any circumstances, to live in the State of Israel with borders as they were before 1967, that will not happen. [end recording]

DAYAN, WEIZMAN EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ON AUTONOMY PLAN

TA161813 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 May 79 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is opposed to the prime minister's proposal to include in the Israeli autonomy plan, to be presented at the negotiations with Egypt and the U.S., two statements declaring absolute rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state and clarification of Israel's intention to demand the application of its sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip after the 5 years of autonomy. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman supports Dayan's position, while the prime minister insists on including both statements.

The two statements are included in the updated autonomy plan presented by Begin to the 11-man committee. The statements appear at the end of the autonomy proposal and have the status of unilateral declarations expressing intention, but not constituting a part of the autonomy plan clauses.

The foreign minister objected, at the 11-man committee meeting the day before yesterday, to the inclusion of the two declarations on the grounds that they are of no tactical use and lacking in any practical significance in the negotiations with Egypt, which are meant to focus on the nature of the autonomy transition period and not on the situation to prevail after the first five years. The prime minister differed with the foreign minister, stating that it is important to express Israel's positions on the sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and that the government does not know which declarations of intention will be included in the Egyptian position paper.

However, the prime minister tended to accept other reservations by the foreign minister regarding a number of central autonomy plan clauses. The main object of the Dayan remarks was that Israel must refrain from presenting a detailed position at this point on issues such as: control of lands, water, areas of authority of the administrative council, the council election system, etc. The foreign minister claims that formulations of principle should be enough and that we should rely on the basic demand to leave the military administration as the supreme source of authority for the operation of the autonomy institutions (the prime minister and foreign minister are agreed on the source of authority question). The defense minister is known to have a position similar to that of the foreign minister on the need for a formulation in principle only.

LIKUD MK MOSHE SHAMIR SETS UP OWN PARTY

TA160722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 May 79 TA

[Text] The Knesset house committee has approved Moshe Shamir's request to be declared a separate Knesset faction.

Next week it will discuss the proposed name: Representative of the Labor Movement for the Land of Israel Movement.

MINISTER NISIM ON SITUATION OF IRANIAN JEWS

TA161633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 May 79 TA

[Text] The government has done, and will continue to do, everything possible to save the Jews of Iran. This was said in the Knesset by Minister Moshe Nisim. The Jews of Iran are in danger, he said, and Khomeyni's evil regime is apparently threatening to continue to murder Jews and non-Jews. Minister Nisim called on all the civilized countries to express their anger and act against the detestable methods which several countries, headed by Iran, have chosen. Moshe Nisim was replying to four motions for the agenda on the issue of the Jews of Iran. The author of one motion, MK Zalman Shoval, warned that what was happening today in Iran could also occur in such countries as Tunisia or Morocco. According to him, in those countries there are also worrying signs of violence and threats against Jews.

HA'ARETZ REPORTS INCREASED POPULARITY OF LEADERS

TA161138 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 May 79 p 3 TA

[Text] The popularity of the prime minister, the defense minister and the foreign minister has increased slightly during the month since the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt. This was indicated in a country-wide Pori poll commissioned by HA'ARETZ.

Begin's popularity rose by 5.7 percent, from 47.7 percent in March to 53.4 percent now.

Moshe Dayan's popularity has risen by 2.5 percent, from 47.3 percent in March to 49.8 percent now.

Weizman's popularity has increased by 4 percent, from 64.7 percent in March to 68.7 now. He continues to be the most popular Likud minister.

Ehrlich's popularity continues at an all-time low with only 9.3 percent satisfied with him as finance minister. This is in contrast with the 73.3 percent who are dissatisfied with him and the 12.6 percent who are "more or less" satisfied with him. [all figures as published]

The poll covered a cross section of 1,200 men and women 18 years of age and older who were interviewed in person in their homes throughout the country.

Another public opinion poll conducted by Pori at the request of HA'ARETZ indicated that after about a month since the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt 76 percent of the state's adult population were content with the agreement, as compared with 20 percent who are not happy with it.

The poll shows that 43 percent are "very pleased" in addition to 33 percent who are "somewhat pleased," i.e., 76 percent of all those questioned have expressed various degrees of satisfaction.

In contrast, 15 percent said they were not "all that satisfied" while 5 percent are "not at all satisfied." Thus, 20 percent of all those queried have expressed various degrees of dissatisfaction.

The remaining 4 percent expressed neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction.

However, confidence that the peace treaty will actually lead to lasting, permanent peace with Egypt is a little less high: 25 percent "strongly believe" and 39.5 percent "believe a little." In other words, 64.5 percent of those questioned have some degree of confidence in the treaty.

Of all those questioned 21 percent "do not believe all that much" in the durability of the treaty while 9 percent "do not believe at all" that the treaty will actually bring about permanent peace. Thus, 30 percent of all polled are doubtful about the agreement. The other 5.5 percent of those interviewed "do not know" whether it will indeed bring permanent peace.

The public poll comprised a representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed in their homes throughout the country.

USSR'S BOVIN ON TERRORISM, ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TREATY

TA162009 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 May 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Soviet Union has always been opposed to terror as a means of solving political problems. These remarks were made today by Alexandr Bovin, a senior political writer on the Soviet paper IZVESTIYA and a political commentator on the Soviet television program "Panorama." Bovin is heading a Soviet delegation being hosted in Israel by the Israel-Soviet Union Friendship Movement. Today our correspondent Dan Eshel spoke with him. [Begin recording]

[Eshel] I did not even manage to get one good word out of Bovin about the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt. A more extreme solution is needed concerning the Palestinians, he said, and not those proposals by the Government of Israel, which cannot be accepted by the Palestinians. Doesn't the agreement with Egypt appear to you as a step contributing to the creation of a more relaxed atmosphere for negotiations over a comprehensive peace agreement in the area?

[Bovin--in Russian, followed by Eshel translation into Hebrew] Look, from the humanistic aspect, I would very much like to think like you, but I am a political analyst. I must refrain from looking at things emotionally and rely on political logic alone. My political analysis teaches me that the situation now prevailing is not leading to peace. On the contrary, this situation could cause unpleasant surprises for you and us, Bovin said. What sort of a peace is this, Bovin asked me, when we see armed people everywhere; on the seashore, in places of amusement; is this the sort of peace you want? I explained that the weapons he had seen serve for defense not against people with whom a peace agreement has been signed, but against the envoys of a body whose victims are mostly innocent people.

We think that terror, which takes the lives of innocent people, does not contribute to a solution of the problem. My party has always been opposed to terror as a means of solving political problems, Bovin added. As opposed to this, he said, we understand the reasoning of those people whose despair is leading them to these acts. However, we are bitterly opposed to the Government of Israel's reaction to the terrorist acts when it uses planes and artillery against refugee camps.

And this circle of blood will continue to go around as long as no radical solution is found to the Palestinian problem. Do you see any resemblance between the actions of the terrorists and the activities of the Baader-Meinhoff gangs and the Red Brigades, we asked? Heaven forbid, Bovin replied. Those gangs in Europe just destroy people without having any sort of platform or ideology. [end recording]

SINAI BEDOUIN PREFER ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY

TA161625 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 May 79 p 5 TA

[Text] The heads of several Bedouin tribes in the area of southern Sinai recently approached administrative authorities and the IDF in the region, expressing their wish to remain under Israeli sovereignty and move, with the beginning of the evacuation, to the Israeli side.

They asked whether they would be allowed to do that and what the government's attitude toward that issue was.

Many of the Bedouin in Sinai are apprehensive of Egyptian sovereignty, fearing that the Egyptians will harass them.

GAZA, SINAI WORKERS END SANCTIONS, RETURN TO JOBS

TA161832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 May 79 TA

[Text] The Israeli workers in the Gaza and Sinai military government have decided to stop their sanctions and they will return to work normally tomorrow morning.

This afternoon, the workers committee met with the defense minister and with the director general of the Defense Ministry and an understanding was reached on a framework agreement for the workers from the territories.

POLICE ARRIVE IN MODI'IN TO REMOVE TRAILERS

TA162106 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 May 79 TA

[Text] A police force arrived in the area of Modi'in this afternoon to remove the trailers of the Hazav [Zionist building groups] nucleus settlers. The members of the nucleus arrived at the Modi'in area 2 days ago and they wish, so they claim, to move the people in charge of settlement affairs to hurry up and establish an urban settlement in the area.

Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon told our correspondent Menashe Raz that several times proposals have been made to the members of the nucleus to settle in accordance with the Cabinet's order of priorities. At any rate, the minister claims that so far the Hazav people have not yet succeeded in establishing a substantial settlement nucleus.

BRIEFS

GNP INCREASE--The Gross National Product rose in 1978 by approximately 5 percent as compared to increases of about 1 percent in the 2 preceding years. Private consumption rose last year by 8 percent and public consumption by 11 percent, particularly owing to the increase in defense imports. This is shown in data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics. It also emerges that the number of employees' work hours rose on the average by some 4.5 percent in 1978. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 May 79 TA]

KHOMEYNI MEETS KEYHAN STAFF IN QOM

LD161052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] At 2030 yesterday, a group representing the Muslim staff and workers of the KEYHAN newspaper were received by the imam in Qom. They reported their activities during the last 3 months and said: We struggled against a group of irresponsible writers and individuals who spread poisonous news and articles, and we have now decisively prevented their entry and published an issue of KEYHAN due to the assistance of the Muslim workers of KEYHAN. It is possible that this issue will not be free of difficulties and may not be accepted by all.

In reply, the imam said: I thank the Muslim workers. The press has an effective role in raising society's standard of thinking and should publish matters responsibly. If journalists wish to write in support of criminals, then they are not writers, they are criminals. The press should follow the course of the nation; unfortunately, some papers carry articles which contradict the course and wishes of our society, and so far we have overlooked it.

The imam also said: I thank the KEYHAN workers for firmly blocking those who wrote articles against the interests of the nation. You pointed out that because of shortcomings, today's issue may not be acceptable to all, but I say that today's KEYHAN is acceptable to the nation. The nation wants a newspaper that writes in accordance with its views, and it does not want story and essay writing. The press should not let the nation's blood be wasted, and should not return the society to the time when falsehood prevailed through false writings. This will not be tolerated.

Khomeyni Addresses Staff

LD161600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Address by Ayatollah Khomeyni at a meeting on 15 May in Qom with a group of KEYHAN newspaper workers--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: The role of the press in nations lies in reflecting the aspirations of the nation. The press should be like teachers who educate the country and the youth and reflect the nation's aspirations. In a country in which so much blood has been shed--in which our nation gave so much blood in order to bring about an Islamic Republic endorsed by an overwhelming majority and in which the hands of traitors were cut short and the hands of plunderers cut off--in such a country if the press still wants to write anything in support of criminals and traitors, this will not be our press--this will be treachery. [loud shouts of "hear, hear" repeated three times]

The press must write what the nation wants, not that which runs counter to the nation's course. Nevertheless, materials which run counter to the nation's course and which are contrary to the aspirations of the national community are being reflected in some sections of the press. So far we have acted with forbearance; I hope that the press will be reformed by the proprietors of the press themselves.

I thank you, the staff and workers of the KEYHAN newspapers, for having stopped with sincere determination and firm resolve individuals who want to go against the nation's course. You remarked that perhaps the way in which the newspaper KEYHAN was published today might not be to the liking of the nation. Well, KEYHAN as published today is to the liking of the nation. [loud shouts of "hear, hear, hear" chanted three times]

The nation wants a newspaper that acts in line with its views, in line with the nation's views, in line with the wishes of the nation. It does not desire to see articles and essays. It wants things which are in keeping with the nation's course. You should strive and write about issues which are in line with the nation's course. Our nation's blood should not be wasted; our nation has endeavored; our nation has shed blood. If, by their drivel, people want to restore the original situation, this cannot be tolerated.

We will exercise patience to the extent that there is no plot. But, God forbid, should there be a plot, we will not be patient, we will not tolerate this. They must reform themselves. All the media must reform itself so that, God forbid, it does not go against the nation's course. They should not imagine that the previous situation can be restored. This is a thing of the past; it has been buried. May God grant you success.

I thank you for coming here and for giving me an opportunity to meet you. I hope you will be managing the paper yourselves and publish in it that which the nation desires. Peace and God's blessings be upon you. [loud shouts of "God is great"]

ISLAMIC REPUBLICAN PARTY HAILS KEYHAN WORKERS, STAFF

ID1601926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 79 ID

[Text] The Islamic Republican Party sent a message to the workers of the newspaper KEYHAN today. The message says in part:

The heroic KEYHAN workers and staff have once again demonstrated that Iran's Islamic revolution, inspired by the leadership of the Imam Khomeyni, has sprung from among the masses, has triumphed thanks to their power and is surging forward thanks to their righteousness. The step taken by these KEYHAN sons, who are faithful to the revolution, should not merely be confined to the limits of the press; rather we should consider the rising as a sign of the blessed presence and a continuation of revolutionary ardor among the meek people of the nation. By their valiant deed, the KEYHAN workers and staff have demonstrated their ardor and the extent of our people's vigilance as regards the counterrevolutionary plots. The title chosen by these valiant sons of the revolution for the paper yesterday is demonstrative of the deep cohesion of the toiling masses and the goals of the leadership of the revolution and the nation.

The Islamic Republican Party calls on the noble Iranian people, as a mark of their adherence to the revolutionary movement of the pious KEYHAN workers and staff, not to shrink from giving their unstinting support to these heroes.

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WARNS 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' FORCES

LD161022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] The Islamic Revolutionary Council issued the following statement today:

In the name of God Almighty. In a statement issued by the imam's office, the leader of the revolution, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, told the revolutionary courts' public prosecutors that revolutionary courts have no right to issue death sentences except in two cases. This order is necessary in the present stage of the revolution in the sense that stage of construction has begun, and that the existence of peace and security in society and official posts in all government, private and economic sectors is imperative.

This command, which originated in the powers of the leader and the patron, is another example of the timely guidance of the exalted leader during the Islamic revolution of the Iranian nation. During the period when our heroic and struggling nation is preparing for historic and important tasks that will shape its destiny--that is, during the establishment of administrative councils, the ratification of the constitution, and the election of the president and members of the Majlis in a completely free atmosphere--the need for this measure by the leader is completely clear.

In the meantime, in order to prevent the traitorous and counterrevolutionary elements and the remnants of the hated regime, upon whom God's wrath and lashes of fire descended in the form of swift and decisive sentences of the Islamic revolutionary courts which eliminated their opportunity to conspire from taking advantage of their position and entertaining thoughts of dealing blows to the revolution, they are being warned that, first: This order of our leader at this stage concerns death sentences only; in other cases different punishments may be imposed. Second, this order, which concerns a particular stage of the revolution, relates to past crimes. We warn the treasonous, counterrevolutionary conspirators that if they embark on their disgraceful, treasonous and counterrevolutionary actions and think of damaging the revolution and its achievements, achievements that have been obtained through the blood of our martyrs, they will be crushed with the utmost severity and without oversight by the revolutionary courts and will be punished.

CONFERENCE OF GOVERNORS GENERAL DISCUSSES INDUSTRY

LD161124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Excerpts] The second day of the conference of governors general began this morning in the presence of Ahmad Sadr Haj-Seyyed-Javadi, interior minister; Mahmud Ahmadzadeh Heravi, minister of industries and mines, and Engineer Salehi, deputy minister of housing and urban development. According to a report by our correspondent Ahmad Bonakyar, at the beginning of today's session Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi summarized the results of yesterday's discussion and asked the governors general to put forward their problems, if they have any, in the field of industries and mines.

Moqaddam Maraghai, governor general of East Azarbayjan, stated in his speech: With regard to industries, I ought to say that in the 3 months I have been in Azerbayjan, I have sent telegrams and have called regularly. Not one director of the industries and mines department has been sent to Azarbayjan, and this has truly led to many difficulties. Of course, from the viewpoint of industry, perhaps Esfahan comes first, Khuzestan second and Azarbayjan third or fourth.

Large factories have no general government policy to implement neither the government nor the national factories have any well-defined policy. In fact, government industries are more chaotic than the private sector, for the people involved are not familiar with affairs at hand. Plant managers have been dismissed by the workers without thinking or having a policy. From the viewpoint of the pace of industrial progress, factory production has been constantly falling; individuals are not working but still receive wages; and such factories still are unable to properly manage their own exports.

The governor general of East Azarbayjan added: The government should, at least in its own work, act with determination and define policy. With regard to the private sector, we also should expect a policy. Yesterday Mr Foruhar stated that we will take control of the duties of any plant manager who does not work. In my view, this is not long term policy.

Mr Maraghai, the governor general of East Azarbayjan, said: Industries are deficient in future projections in the sense that only wages are obtained and basically there is no attention to management, nor is there any attention to production or to main government policy lines. That is, the Ministry of Industries and Mines has formulated no decision concerning management and administration.

Afterwards, Mr Gholam Reza Dabiran, governor general of Yazd, put forward issues and said that the people of this province have in no way benefited from the mineral resources of this province.

BAZARGAN ATTENDS MEETING WITH USSR OFFICIAL

LD161450 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan this morning attended a meeting held with the participation of USSR Government representatives. At this meeting, attended on behalf of the government by the ministers of foreign affairs, energy, industries and mines and commerce; the deputy prime minister for transition affairs; and the deputy prime minister and government spokesman, discussions were held and views exchanged concerning joint agreements between the two countries, including the Ahvaz powerplant. This is the third meeting that representatives of the two countries have held in the presence of the prime minister.

PRIME MINISTRY DEFINES 'AUTONOMY,' 'RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION'

LD161800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] The following circular, expounding the terms "autonomy" and the "right to self-determination," was issued by the Prime Ministry today:

In view of the fact that certain officials have expressed their views pertaining to the issue of "autonomy", which has apparently been confused with the term "right to self-determination," we hereby announce that these two terms constitute different concepts from the legal standpoint, and that the "right to self-determination" means granting independence and complete sovereignty and is being used to denote those nations which are languishing under the overlordship of foreign colonialism and that are struggling toward liberation from dependence on the colonial power.

The term "autonomy" is tantamount to a limited right granted to a people in order for them to enjoy certain powers, whether financial, administrative, cultural or other, in that part of the country where they live without severing their ties with the original country.

TEHRAN REPORTS 'ARAFAT GREETINGS TO YAZDI

LD170148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has sent a message of greeting on the occasion of the appointment of Dr Ebrahim Yazdi to the post of foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the text of which is as follows:

In the name of God and in the name of the struggler brothers, I express my best and heartfelt congratulations on your accepting the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which manifests the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and I am convinced that you are well chosen for this responsible post.

Together toward victory, God willing. [Signed] Your brother, Yasir 'Arafat

The foreign minister of the provisional Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in reply to the congratulatory message of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, declared the full support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggle of the Palestinian people for the realization of their rights, and pointed out that without the complete realization of the just rights of the struggling Palestinian nation, peace and calm will never be established in the Middle East.

HOSPITAL OFFICIAL DENIES DISCRIMINATING AGAINST KURDISH PATIENTS

LD141158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 79 LD

[Text] Quoting Dr Qasemlu, secretary general of Kordestan Democratic Party, the BBC reported a few nights ago that the hospital in Naqadeh had refused to admit the wounded Kurdish people during the recent events in the city.

Following this report, 'Abdollah 'Abbasi, director of Naqadeh Red Lion and Sun Society Hospital, in a telegram to Iranian radio and television, denied the statement of the secretary general of the Kordestan Democratic Party and said the report by the BBC was spiteful. He said: In view of available records at the hospital, this treatment center shows complete impartiality and admits anyone from any group, regardless of time and place. As for those who could not be treated locally, they were sent to the medical center of the province.

RAFSANJAN GUARDS URGE THREE FORMER OFFICIALS TO SURRENDER

LD132209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 79 LD

[Text] The headquarters of the Revolution Guards in the provincial city of Rafsanjan has announced a warning to Dr Hoseyn Tajaddod, Rafsanjan deputy to the dissolved Majlis; Afrasiab Tajaddod, former head of the Rafsanjan town council; and Iraj Tajaddod, former head of the Rafsanjan town council. It calls on them to give themselves up to the Rafsanjan Revolutionary Court within 5 days of the publication of the announcement, failing which the court of the Islamic revolution of Rafsanjan will proceed to issue a verdict in absentia.

TEHRAN REPORTS FURTHER ON ARRESTS, SENTENCING

Royal Court Minister Released

LD131222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 79 LD

[Text] 'Aliqoli Ardalan, former royal court minister, who had been arrested by the Iranian Revolution Guards and jailed in Qasr prison, was freed this morning. Ardalan was the last royal court minister of the ousted Pahlavi.

An international news agency had reported some time ago that Ardalan had died following a heart attack; this report was immediately denied by PARS. Ardalan is nearly 78 years old.

Police Officials Sentenced

LD161720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] According to a report by PARS, the Islamic Revolutionary Court at Imamrud [formerly Shahrud] yesterday dealt with the dossiers of one officer and two intelligence officers of the police station, and after examining witnesses and evidence available, these individuals were condemned for the crime of intimidating, terrorizing and putting down the people, and participating in the slaying of the revolutionary fighters of this city:

On the basis of the verdict of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Imamrud, Sgt Gholam Ali Naz-'Alizadeh, head of the intelligence section, was sentenced to exile in Zahedan for 8 years, permanent discharge from regular service, deprivation of civil rights during the period of exile, and three floggings, with 39 lashes administered each time, to take place in the city square. Warrant Officer Ramadan 'Ali Ya'qubi, responsible for uncovering information and informing in the intelligence section, was sentenced 2 years' exile in Zabol, permanent discharge from regular service, deprivation of civil rights and 30 lashes. Seyyed Mostafa Jalali, an employee in the intelligence section, was sentenced to 5 years' exile in Birjand, permanent discharge from regular service, deprivation of all civil rights during the period of exile, and three floggings with 30 lashes administered each time.

Death Sentences in Mashhad

LD170914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] The Mashhad Islamic Revolutionary Court convened yesterday and considered charges brought against four accused people. After 12 hours of deliberation and consultation, the court issued its verdict at midnight last night as follows:

Gholam Reza Pur-Rahimi, [word indistinct] agent, interrogator and torturer of the dissolved SAVAK, has been found guilty of seeking out, arresting and continually torturing strugglers, subjecting them to harsh psychological interrogation and taking part in the killing of some of the struggling people. He was sentenced to death.

Akbar [name indistinct], known as Akbari, has been found guilty of seeking out, arresting and torturing struggling people and of taking part in the killing of some of them. He was sentenced to death. It was also ordered that his salary be paid to his dependents.

Col Dr Hasan Davari has been found guilty of collaborating with the dissolved SAVAK and issuing a false death certificate with respect to martyr Hedayati. He was sentenced to expulsion from military service.

Mohammad Esmai'il 'Andalibzadeh, pseudoclergyman, was sentenced to 1 month corrective imprisonment, to be defrocked, and his assets, except two houses in Mashhad located in Pirnia and Sarakhs streets, to be confiscated.

The death sentences relating to the first and second defendants were carried out at 0200 today.

SAVAK Head Sentenced

LD170915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] The Khvoy Islamic Revolutionary Court, after a 2-day trial, sentenced to death Maj Mas'ud Shafi'i, son of Nasrollah, head of the dissolved SAVAK in Khvoy and Salmas. He was found guilty of killing; arson; destruction; plunder; highway robbery; waging war against God, the holy imams and the representative of the imam; and of sowing corruption on earth. The death sentence was carried out in the grounds of the police station of Khvoy this morning. The court also ordered the said man's salary to be paid to his dependents.

In addition, Abdolfazl Sadri, son of 'Ali, and Mansur Nabavi, son of Seyyed Hoseyn, staff members of the Khvoy SAVAK, were released from police prison on bail. Akbar Ja'farlu, son of 'Ali, a farmer, was discharged unconditionally owing to lack of sufficient evidence to substantiate the charges.

KEYHAN ARTICLE ABOUT VILLAGE FEUD DISCOUNTED

LD131042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 79 LD

[Text] The official spokesman of the 11-man Sanandaj administrative council, in an interview about the content of the article in KEYHAN on 9 May about disputes in (Naqdshekan) and Qezel Olaq villages, said: Disputes had emerged between these villages over some lands, and their boundaries, but these differences have not reached the proportions described in the newspaper. No dispute such as occupation of the farmers' lands by the landowners, or their expulsion of the farmers, from the said villages, has taken place.

The spokesman said: Two members of the council, together with the assistant governor general of Kordestan and the Sanandaj governor, went to Imandareh district, and at a meeting in the presence of two of the landowners in the said villages and the farmers the differences were removed and it was decided that both sides must avoid trespassing on each other's lands. This issue was considered with utmost care, and was settled.

ETTEIA'AT ATTACKS BBC REPORT OF CLERICAL CONTROL

ID162148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1722 GMT 16 May 79 ID

[Press review on ETTEIA'AT's comment on BBC]

[Text] Referring to the lies indulged in by the BBC, ETTEIA'AT writes:

The BBC, whose divisive role and anti-Iranian Islamic revolution position are now completely evident to all, has gradually given up its earlier attitude, which was ostensibly mild and moderate when it used to subvert the work of the revolution with its ill-intentioned commentaries and by misrepresenting the news, and is now openly and shamelessly disseminating lies about the Iranian revolution.

In a news item last night about the situation in the Iranian press, after a number of rumormongerings and misrepresentations of the facts, it said, among other things:

Of the two important Iranian papers, that is ETTEIA'AT and KEYHAN, ETTEIA'AT is already being administered under the direction of a prominent clergyman: Hajat al-Islam Mofatteh. Our attitude to the BBC so far has been mainly one of nonchalance, since we know what a terrible blow was dealt to the interests of Britain by the Iranian revolution; and we have seen and heard examples of the furious reactions of the government authorities of that country, which is a so-called cradle of Western democracy, to Iranian students and nationals in that country and we have already carried reports on that matter. However, we never imagined that the BBC, which claims to be an independent body and wishes to enjoy the confidence of its listeners on a world scale, would openly and brazenly tell obvious lies.

After expounding its course and press policy ETTEIA'AT writes:

This policy has not been dictated to us by any authority, whether religious, governmental or political, but rather this is a policy chosen and carried out in time by the workers, staff and editorial board of the paper, and a five-man council has even been appointed in order to supervise its meticulous execution and to elect all the members of the editorial board.

Of course, the BBC's motive in disseminating this report is obvious. ETTEIA'AT's stubborn position in defending the achievements of the Islamic revolution is obviously unpalatable to those who have tasted for themselves the pure taste of these achievements. Therefore they invent administrators for us from among the religious community in order to misrepresent our independent course and portray it, as they think, as being dictated, and therefore unoriginal. But they are committing a grave mistake. Appointing an administrator is not necessary in order to defend Iran's Islamic revolution.

It is every member of the editorial board and subeditors who deem it their sacred, national duty to guard and defend the revolution to their utmost power. In a nutshell, gentlemen, indulging in lies does not solve your problem. Imperialism no longer has a place in Iran.

LONDON PAPER DISCUSSES KEYHAN DIFFICULTIES

ID161049 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 16 May 79 p 4 ID

[Tony Allen-Mills dispatch: "Criticism of Khomeyni Halts Second Paper"]

[Text] Tehran--A second Iranian newspaper is in serious danger of closure following a clash between journalists and printing staff yesterday.

The paper is KEYHAN, one of the few which has attempted an objective approach to the problems of post-revolutionary Iran. It has been plagued by internal disputes since the independent morning daily AYANDEGAN was forced to close earlier this week.

AYANDEGAN was criticised by the Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the revolution, as "unacceptable to Muslims." It stopped printing after Khomeyni supporters attacked its offices around the country and beat up street vendors who tried to sell it.

KEYHAN, a mass-circulation evening newspaper, regarded the ayatollah's condemnation of AYANDEGAN as a major blow to press freedom. The edition yesterday was reduced to four pages, three of which were advertisements.

Its implied criticism of the Iranian leader outraged Islamic militants among KEYHAN's printing staff and yesterday the workers decided to "black" the work of 22 journalists, who were described as "anti-revolutionary, communists and leftists."

The move immediately prompted a walk-out by all but a few of KEYHAN's editorial staff, and with both sides refusing to budge despite the intervention of Mr Mehdi Momkin, deputy minister for information. The appearance of further issues this week was in doubt.

Informed sources said last night the moves to gag the two main organs for dissent may be connected with the imminent publication of a new Islamic constitution for Iran.

Although the religious leadership has promised a public debate on the constitution, unofficial drafts of which have already been published, it may not want too great a display of opposition, the sources said.

KEYHAN, crippled by financial problems since Dr Mostafa Mesbahzadeh, its owner, fled from Iran before the revolution, may be nationalised to become an official mouthpiece for the Islamic Republic, say journalists.

Newspaper sources said KEYHAN's printing staff had been told by one of Khomeyni's closest advisors not to worry about what effects their actions might have on the paper as they would be "looked after."

NVOI DISCUSSES NEED FOR 'PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT'

TA161410 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 13 May carries a commentary entitled "The Country's Aspiration Is Establishment of Freedom." The commentary begins by saying that "in a recent statement the prime minister of the Islamic Republic's provisional government, Engineer Bazargan, referred to an important issue of great interest to all patriotic Iranians and supporters of Iran's freedom and independence.

"Bazargan said: We have achieved the revolution against despotism, and henceforth our aim should not be despotism, but just the opposite."

The commentary says: "Our country's people, at the cost of their lives, fought against the dictatorship and despotism of oppressive governments. The nation's most beloved sons lost their lives in that struggle. Finally the people won their longed-for freedom." It goes on: "One should benefit from this freedom to the utmost. However, the country's freedom and independence can actually be secured under democracy and through a people's government that will serve the people."

The commentary then scores "Mohammad Reza's dictatorship," and goes on to say that Prime Minister Bazargan "is against despotism," because he is one of those who suffered under the bloodshedding and despotic regime's tortures in prison and knows too well what despotism means."

The commentary goes on: "Freedom is not something which should be confined to a certain group or faction. Without any exception, all the people and all the forces which contributed to the victory of Iran's national and Islamic revolution should benefit from it. Freedom should be extended to all news media, to the radio and television and to the press and all publications. In the liberated and independent Iran everyone should benefit from all political and social freedoms. If a faction or a group, exploiting its power, acquires concessions for itself, this eventually leads to the domination of the community's other groups and classes by a single group or faction. Such a thing will mean the replacement of one dictatorship by another. As was also stated by Mr Bazargan, a despotic regime can best be thwarted by establishing a people's government that will serve the people and will insure the people their basic rights. In other words, a government which will insure the people's participation in the administration of their own affairs along with those of the entire country."

The radio then carries a commentary entitled "Let Us Help the Government Eliminate Its Difficulties." The commentary begins by saying that "in one of his speeches, leader of the Iranian revolution Imam Khomeyni said that the arms supplied to Iran were actually aimed at serving the Americans and at establishing bases in our country against the Soviet Union." The commentary then says that "at a press conference at Iran's Moscow embassy, Iranian Ambassador Dr Mohammad Mokri scored the shah "for plundering the country's wealth," and spending the money obtained from oil "on weapons that the country did not need."

The commentary then says that the shah and his relatives "have $22 billion in U.S. and European banks," and that "every member of the corrupt Pahlavi dynasty, led by Mohammad Reza, plundered the wealth of the country and of its people, and placed the country's resources at the disposal of imperialist countries, especially of U.S. imperialism." The commentary says that as a result of all this "the government is faced with countless difficulties which must be eliminated." It stresses the economic difficulties facing the government and says: "Under such conditions, naturally, the Islamic Republic's provisional government needs the help of all groups and classes of people and of every Iranian dedicated to Iran's freedom and independence. Pahlavi's corrupt reign has been expelled from our country, but his bloodshedding malicious regime's remnants still lie in wait. Making use of every opportunity they are trying to deal blows at the Iranian revolution, hoping to regain what they have lost. This, of course, is a vain hope."

The commentary concludes: "One should not even for a moment refrain from supporting the provisional government and protecting the revolution's achievements. This can be achieved through the unity of word and action of all the patriots, of all the supporters of freedom and independence and of all the country's national and progressive forces."

"U.S. imperialism, the hated Mohammad Reza and bloodthirsty SAVAKists do not refrain from any crime and conspiracy in their bid to create discord and conflict among the country's national and progressive forces and factions. With the close cooperation of the CIA and the special funds allocated by the hated and homeless shah, various cliques are trying to deal blows at the Iranian nation's great revolution. The national and sacred task of all the honorable Iranians dedicated to the revolution and to the country's freedom and independence is to serve in the ranks of the national and progressive forces and to help the Islamic Republic's provisional government in the implementation of the development program and the reconstruction of the country."

LATE REPORT: KHOMEYNI MESSAGE ON WOMEN'S DAY

LD171030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Message to the nation from Ayatollah Khomeyni on Women's Day and the birthday of the Prophet's daughter--recorded]

[Excerpts] In our Iran, women were oppressed under the shah and under his father. In the name of the alleged emancipation of women they oppressed them. They brought women down from their position of nobility and respect. They (?diverted) women from the spiritual position they had enjoyed. In the name of emancipation, they deprived free men and women of their liberty. They (?corrupted) our women and our youth. The shah's conception of women was that they should be charming. From his animal, material, physical and low view of women, he expected them to be charming. He brought women down from the human status (? to the level of an animal). In the name of allegedly granting women status, he actually reduced their status.

We have observed the role played by women in the movement. History has seen what women could be and what women could do. History has seen, and we ourselves have seen, the kind of women that Islam has trained. We have seen the kind of women that were engaged in the uprising--from among the shy women of south Tehran, of Qom and other Islamic regions. Those who had received the aryamehri kind of education had nothing whatsoever to do with the movement. They had received corrupt training; they had been kept away from Islamic education. It was those who had an Islamic education who gave their blood; it was from among those that the deaths came. It was from among these people that the movement started; it was these people who poured into the streets. We owe our movement to women.

Women were (?corrupted) under Reza Khan and under Mohammad Reza shah. Men and the youth were similarly (?corrupted). They set up centres of prostitution for our youth--in the name of emancipation, in the name of progress, in the name of civilization. They dragged our young ones into prostitution. In the name of freedom, they deprived us of all forms of freedom. Those who lived under Reza Khan know what was done to our women, what was done to our honorable women. Those who live d under Mohammad Reza similarly know the situation.

Honorable women, wake up, be alert. Do not be decieved by satans who are trying to drag you out into the arena. They are trying to deceive you. In common with the deposed shah, they are after charm. Seek refuge in Islam. Islam will bring happiness for you. Tomorrow is women's day, a day the world is proud of, a day on which the Prophet's daughter rose against oppressive rule, on which she delivered that notable address and on which she made the remarks which we all know. It was she who rose against a ruthless despot against whom no man could stand and live. It was she who denounced Yazid. She told Yazid: You are nothing.

The women of our era, thanks to God, are even (?braver) as they stood against a despot with clenched fists with babes in arms and helped the movement. May God deliver us from the evil of satans. May God deliver our youth from the evil of satans. May God save our youth and our women from the evil of these satans. Peace be upon all listeners.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL TIMES REPORTS TARAKI'S SPEECH ON REVOLUTION DAY

BK161137 Kabul TIMES in English 30 Apr 79 pp 1, 2 BK

["Great Leader Reports On One Year Activity"--Kabul TIMES headline; date and place of speech not given]

[Text] Dear compatriots, Dear Pakhtun and Baluchi brethren,

I am glad to congratulate you on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Great Sawr Revolution from the depth of my heart--an event which we were looking forward to with joy.

This great uprising was brought to success a year ago today under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (the PDPA) at my directive, upon the (?command) of my seasoned and loyal comrade, Hafizollah Amin, with the sacrifices of the heroic "Khalqi" soldiers joined by cadets and officers and backed by our working people.

As a result of this great glorious revolution, the Khalqi order was brought about in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) established.

The achievements of this Khalqi uprising and order are safeguarded on a vast scale and with much pride by the gallant working people and at the point of the bayonets of the patriotic armed forces of Afghanistan.

The DRA Government carried out its duties during the past year in a revolutionary manner, backed by our valorous armed forces and warmly supported by our working people.

Your Khalqi government carried out these duties in such a glorious atmosphere that our heroic army rapidly developed from the viewpoints of warfare, material and theory and was adequately armed in accord with its gallantry and valour. All aspects of its life and social surroundings were very desirably improved and developed. Today, all the people take pride in the fact that our heroic army is courageously protecting the homeland and revolution.

Beside these great achievements, now our Khalqi government presents to you brief examples of its accomplishments in the form of a short report about the past year's performance.

Legislative Field

During the third day since the toppling of the obsolete feudal regime, in order to protect the values of the Great Sawr Revolution and discharge its sacred duties in a creative, effective and all-sided manner, the Revolutionary Council (RC) as the highest organ of state issued its decree No 1 which amply guided the government in connection with legislation.

During the past year, the RC took important steps which left a significant impact on the people of Afghanistan as far as changing their social, economic and political life was concerned.

This council has to date issued eight decrees, the first of which was out on Sawr 10th last year on whose basis the RC president and prime minister was appointed.

Decree No 2 was issued on Sawr 11th regarding the RC vice-president and members of government. Decree No 3 dealt with the abrogation of the former constitution and the transfer of the erstwhile supreme court authority to the RC.

Decree No 4 issued on Sawr 22nd concerned the DRA state arm and flag.

Decree No 5 issued on Jauza 22nd dealt with termination of nationality rights of 23 members of the ex-King Zaher's family living abroad. At the same time, the RC acquired 13 new members.

Likewise, the Interior Ministry's proposal concerning transportation facilities was approved.

Decree No 6 issued on Saratan 21st helped 11 million impoverished Afghan peasants to throw away from their shoulders the heavy burden of Afs. 30 billion of usury, "salum" and mortgage.

The RC on Saratan 21st abolished the Social Affairs Ministry and at the same time approved the Defence Ministry's proposal concerning the discontinuation of cash rewards to retired officers of the armed forces who had served for longer periods. Meanwhile, it endorsed the text of the law concerning government officials in three articles and the annex three thereof, approving the Justice Ministry's proposal about the authority of the law courts.

The RC of the DRA on Mizan 25th approved the law concerning the DRA flag in 8 chapters and 41 articles.

Decree No 7 issued on the same date abolished forever social inequality between men and women, the dowry and the ruinous wedding expenses, undesirable customs and traditions in our beloved country.

Decree No 8 issued on Qaus 7th finished feudalism in the country once for all and the landless peasants and those with little land came to possess free plots.

The RC at its meeting held on Hoot 6th ratified the treaty of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation signed between the DRA and the USSR.

On the same day, the status [as published] concerning the armed forces of the people of Afghanistan, the internal services, the patrol, the garrison and the military disciplines were approved.

On the same date, the law concerning the duties of the RC and government and legislation procedures were approved in 5 chapters and 30 articles. Meanwhile, the amendments to the articles seven and eight of decree No three of the RC were endorsed.

On the same date, the law concerning discovery and primary interrogations of offences and the supervision of the Office of the Attorney General on the legality and implementation thereof was approved.

On the same day, the first year plan of the 5-year plan of Afghanistan and the 1358 budget governing both revenues and expenditures were approved.

On Hoot 29th, the pension fund budget was endorsed and on Hamal 7th of this year, the RC endorsed thw law concerning the Homeland's High Defence Council [HHDC] in the DRA and on the same date approved the amendment to the above law and legislation procedures.

According to article 22nd of decree No 8 on free distribution of land among the landless peasants and those with little land as well as the nomads, decree No 1 was issued on Jaddi 11th, decree No 2 on Hoot 14th and decree No 3 on Hamal 22nd by the president of RC.

The first minister was appointed on Hamal 7th and members of government on Hamal 11th of this year.

Likewise, members of the HHDC were appointed, on Hamal 12th.

Foreign Affairs

The official friendly visit to Moscow last year by the RC president and the signing of the treaty of friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation between the two friendly countries was a great event indeed.

Active and positive participation in the meetings of non-aligned foreign ministers in Belgrade and Havana was a brilliant success scored by our country.

Likewise, the trips to friendly countries by our high-powered party and government delegations and further improvement of our friendly ties with those nations was a great help. Diplomatic relations were established on resident ambassadorial level with the Democratic Republic of Germany, Cuba and Hungary while the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was recognised as the true representative of the people of Korea with official recognition withdrawn from the Republic of Korea. In the past year, we took an effective part in the non-aligned nations' conferences in Havana and Belgrade.

High-powered delegations from certain friendly countries visited Afghanistan including that sent by the Revolutionary Council of the PLO and a team from the POLISARIO led by the minister without portfolio of its government.

The International Solidarity Day with the People of Palestine and the Solidarity Week with the Revolution of Ethiopia, the International Day Against Apartheid, etc. were observed in Afghanistan.

The United Nations was approached to help in connection with narcotics control whose technical and financial aid amounts to over $1 million.

In order to ensure the rights of workers, steps were taken with regard to joining a few ILO conventions.

Also, steps were taken in connection with the participation of 132 persons in meetings held by the United Nations and its specialized agencies as well as in seminars, training courses and symposia organised under the auspices of the world body. Fourteen agreements or protocols were signed on cultural aid while steps are being taken to finalize the proposed ones.

In order to help the Khalqi youth officials to develop mentally and provide them with further information in international arenas, law, economics and politics, appropriate programmes were prepared for their training. Agreements were signed with a few countries on trade and transit. Efforts were made to solicit economic aid from foreign banks and other organizations under favourable terms for development projects in the DRA.

Some foreign cameramen shooting art films concerning "Da Bang Musafiri", "Afghanistan, the Heart of Asia" and "Da Sawr Enqilab" were provided with facilities.

First Ministry

When, as a result of the Great Sawr Revolution, the obsolete feudal regime which suppressed knowledge was finished for good, the way was paved not only for all-out scientific and academic research but also a great need was felt for this. That was why we founded Afghanistan's Science Academy with an appropriate organizational structure which is engaged in scientific activities.

The academy published in the year 1357, 14 scientific, literary and historical books while a few others are to follow. In this manner, the Department of Administrative Reforms was established within the framework of the First Ministry, and the regulation in this connection came into effect in order to end the past feudal buresucracy and bring about a healthy administration and democracy.

Under the past regime, the Department for the Supervision of Public Accounts was there to terrorise the people by arranging incriminating files against them because it overlooked its prime duty which was to supervise the state assets through checking public accounts. Following the Great Sawr Revolution, fundamental changes were made in this connection as a result of which this department resumed its original functions which are summarized below:

On the basis of a draft law prepared in 7 chapters and 38 articles, the organizational structure of this department was overhauled, its planning section organized and board of experts beefed up. A technical and professional archives was established and a commission to analyse and advise opened and expanded. Training courses were run for its accounting personnel and much data collected from the provinces regarding accounts system and inspection. Three-month courses were arranged to further the information of its inspectors. About 95 percent of government offices dealing with accounts throughout the country were either inspected or guided in an unprecedented manner as compared with 1356. Much attention was paid to securing the arrears and final decisions were made about 570 files involving billions of Afghanis and causing headaches for 1,600 persons.

I must add here that this is not the only duty of the Department for Supervision of Public Accounts to supervise the state assets. It also tries to cooperate with various agencies in a healthy manner in order to guide these.

The affairs of the Cartography and Cadaster Department progressed 27 percent as compared with 1356 within the framework of First Ministry. The outcome of cadastral surveys proved extremely useful as far as the implementation of land reforms action plan was concerned, as a result of which at least 450 acres of land were measured and distributed forthwith.

This institute earned 17 million Afghanis in 1357 whereas its revenues in 1356 amounted to only 4 million Afghanis. A large number of our peasants and other working people sustained losses of life and material damages as a result of heavy raining, causing flood in 17 provinces in 1357. Likewise, there was grain scarcity in Ghor. Therefore, the Department of Emergency Preparedness within the First Ministry extended both cash and material relief to approximately 463 persons from our compatriots which included wheat, rice, vegetable oil, sugar, clothing, blankets and other essentials with a total value of at least 232 million Afghanis.

The Red Crescent

Likewise, the victims of natural disasters and other poor people in the country were helped by the Red Crescent in 1357 in cash and kind to the tune of 100 million Afghanis. Also, the Red Crescent health centres treated, vaccinated, inoculated or dressed more than 766,000 persons.

In order to ensure the health of our compatriots, sport grounds were largely expanded last year as compared with the previous one. Teams were selected to participate in various matches in a number of friendly countries while sporting teams from other nations were invited to come to Afghanistan for the same purpose. Seminars were held on basketball, volleyball, light athletics and boxing taught by experts from the Soviet Union and other friendly nations. Championship matches were organised among "Buzkashi" teams from 10 provinces and more contacts were made with a few international sporting organizations.

The Office of the Attorney General

The files of those innocent compatriots imprisoned under the past oppressive and corrupt regimes were scrutinized, as a result of which 14,000 prisoners from both sexes were released while a few others got their terms reduced.

More than 24,000 files accumulating in various offices in the capital and the provinces under the past obsolete corrupt regimes were processed.

Offices in the capital and the provinces either processed or cancelled approximately 20,000 files.

Seminars were held to enlighten attorneys and democratize justice.

The massacre of the innocent people under the past oppressive regime in the so-called "rest houses" at Qalai Zaman Khan and Alauddin Sufla was thoroughly investigated.

The duties of various officials were specified.

A large number of Khalqi attorneys were sent abroad for higher studies or on observation.

Files were classified on the basis of types of offence, the dates and numbers thereof and sent to the offices concerned.

A meeting was held for heads of various provincial law courts to discuss mutual cooperation.

A new curriculum was organized on the basis of progressive methods. [Kabul TIMES says "To Be Continued"]

GOVERNMENT FORCES, REBELS FIGHTING CLOSER TO KABUL

BK131622 Hong Kong AFP in English 1605 GMT 13 May 79 BK

[Excerpt] Kabul, 13 May (AFP)--Fighting between government forces and Afghan Muslim rebels has moved considerably closer to the capital in recent days, according to a Western diplomatic source.

Three villages some 15 kms (10 miles) northeast of here have come under rocket attack from government planes. There were unconfirmed reports that the villages were destroyed.

Muslim rebels of the Jamiat-Islami and Hazbi Islami groups said that mujahidin Muslim fighters had gone into battle in the province of Logar, which borders on the southern edge of Kabul, and seized control of Tangiwaghjan Pass, 40 kms (25 miles) from the capital.

Incidents that in some cases were substantial in scope were reported by rebels in at least five provinces in recent days.

The heaviest fighting, however, continued to occur in the east of the country, especially in Paktia province, where three government MIG airplanes have reportedly been shot down since April 25 and where armed rebel bands are maintaining pressure on military posts.

Bangladesh

PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN GRANTS INTERVIEW

BK170714 Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Apr 79 pp 1, 3 BK

[Text of interview in Dacca by Hindu special correspondent Gautam Adhikari with Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman--Date not given, but stated to have been during Indian President Morarji Desai's 16-18 April visit to Bangladesh]

[Text] THE HINDU: During Mr Desai's recent visit, you and the Indian prime minister kept referring to the need for regional stability in South Asia. Why this sudden emphasis? Are there any special imperatives in the world today that have again drawn the attention of India and Bangladesh towards regional stability?

Ziaur Rahman: It is not at all sudden. I've been talking about this since the last three years, even when I went to New Delhi. Why,should you think there is a sudden emphasis?

We've got to have peace and stability in this region so that we can totally devote our energies to economic development. That is our common problem. Naturally, if there is no peace this cannot happen.

Q: What is the development aim of your country? Growth with distribution? Or growth first and then distribution--something that is popularly known as the 'trickle down' model of economic development? More specifically, are you following socialism?

A: These are all academic questions. You see, our strategy is primarily rural development. Everything lies basically in land, water, minerals and natural resources like natural gas and so on. Therefore, our overall development has to be based on the development of agriculture, power, fisheries, livestock and mineral resources like gas. We have to utilize our massive manpower, which is an important resource, through the development of cottage and small-scale industries.

This is all primarily rural development. We have also got to be an exporting country in agricultural products, handicrafts, fisheries.

Q: Your biggest export is already an agricultural product--jute.

A: Yes, that is just one. I am telling you, and I've said this to people in other countries as well, we are also going to export not only rice but--you will be surprised--wheat and cotton. You just wait and see.

Q: You have had good weather conditions and good harvests for the last 2 to 3 years. But this year there are reports of drought in north Bangladesh which can lead to a 20 percent drop in food production and you are also importing food.

A: Yes, there is a drought going on for some time. That is a bit worrying. I admit we have been relying heavily on the rains and the weather for our agriculture. But now we are going in for large-scale development of irrigation systems all over the country. This will change the picture.

Q: The Indian prime minister was highly appreciative of your recently started process of democratisation. Why did you decide to democratise the set-up in the first place? Do you think that development problems can be solved in a democracy or does one need an authoritarian structure?

A: To answer your first question, what we have done was the right thing to do, which is why we decided to introduce democracy.

As for the second question, I believe that to develop a country, mere authority does not help. The organisation of society is needed. We have to organise the available manpower resources, have proper and realistic planning, introduce a helpful administrative system and also, must have natural resources available locally. Having a democratic system is a very good way to help a country achieve such development aims.

We are working on the politics of national unity--a grassroots level politics. Our party (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) has a complete programme and we are working hard and democratically. We are also mobilising the youth forces of Bangladesh for this purpose.

Q: What are the drawbacks, in your opinion, of the democracy that you are practising? In this context, can we have your observations on the opposition view--the Awami League's, for instance--that the recent 5th amendment to the constitution was merely "civilianising" the martial law which you lifted?

A: They can say anything they wish, but it is for others to judge. Why don't you see for yourself instead of relying on the opposition views? Don't you think there is press freedom? Newspapers can write virtually anything they like.

Q: What we think may not be quite relevant here, sir, but the president's observations are naturally important. Yes, some newspapers are fairly critical on occasions, especially the non-government press...

A: Regarding drawbacks in the system. There must be some drawbacks because, as you understand, we have many difficulties. We have just started, after all.

Q: Where does the new prime minister, Shah Aziaur Rahman, fit in? Is he a rubber stamp for whatever you decide? And what model of government are you following?

A: No, why should he be a rubber stamp? We are following a presidential form of government with a sovereign Parliament--remember, a sovereign Parliament--which can pass any law and can even impeach the president. It has a lot of power, further than that, I cannot say.

Q: Which model of the presidential form of government are you following--the French? The Sri Lankan?

A: I cannot name any model. We are following the Bangladeshi model!

Q: Can a no-confidence motion be introduced against the prime minister and his Cabinet?

A: No, it's not like that in our country. If there is cross-voting in Parliament, a member loses his seat by voting against his party; so there is no provision for any no-confidence. What is it like in your country? Is there much cross-voting?

Q: Well, yes, to a certain extent. To return to the world situation, in many Islamic countries of the world certain revivalist and obscurantist tendencies have surfaced today which cause considerable worry to all progressive liberals, including Islamic liberals. What is the position of your country on this matter?

A: (With a smile) Can we leave that question aside for the time being?

Q: Can we write "No comment"?

A: (Smiling) No, can't we leave it out? Well, let us say we here are progressive and liberal.

Q: Do you really belong to the U.S.-China 'camp' in world pllitics, as is often said?

A: Where have you heard that? I've never heard it said to me anywhere.

Q: Sir, you wouldn't. It's reporters who hear such things. In fact, it has been suggested that your present emphasis on regional stability--against a comparative instability all round Asia--is an attempt on your part to balance the direction of your foreign policy.

A: We belong to no camp. We belong to the Bangladeshi camp. We have a firm relationship with every country. We are following a policy in which we have excellent friendship with everybody. Regional stability is very important in the present context. As you know, I have been to Malaysia, Thailand, and we have been improving relations with all our neighbours.

Q: The question of treatment of minorities concerns some bordering Indian states because there is an influx into these states which is disrupting socio-economic structures to a certain extent. Why is it at all happening? Do you have any remedies in your mind?

A: To my knowledge, there is no such thing happening. You must remember, we've had no communal problems in Bangladesh for the last few years. That's an important thing to consider. But the border is a long one and is virtually open. There can be some movement from either side.

Q: What about the Enemy Property Act, particularly its implementation, which is said to be partly responsible for this problem?

A: We have already liberalised the act. I don't think that is a problem.

Q: There has been some talk of a cultural agreement with India under which there can be a step-up in the exchange of cultural activities and information between these two countries. Is an agreement likely soon? Did you talk about it with Mr. Desai?

A: Yes, we are working out the details. We shall do something about it. Both the sides are looking into it.

Q: What is Bangladeshi nationalism?

A: Bangladeshi nationalism led to the creation of Bangladesh. It cannot be defined just like that, it's evolved over the years.

Q: But what are its main features?

A: It is a concrete programme which can be divided into two parts. One is a political programme, that is the establishment and strengthening of people's democracy--a grass-roots democracy to motivate the people into national unity. This national unity is very important to us. Secondly, there is an economic programme which I've already mentioned. National economic development is the objective of our country and forms a part of Bangladeshi nationalism.

Q: One last question. We hope it will not be taken otherwise if we ask you of your opinion on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. To many of us outsiders the whole affair is a mystery--one day a hero who became the 'father of the nation,' the next day, an apparently unlamented corpse of an ex-president. What is your assessment of him?

A: You must make your own judgment. It would be improper for me to say anything. Besides, I have already spoken in Parliament where I mentioned his contribution.

INDIA

GANDHI CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT POLICIES AT PARTY RALLY

BK161244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 May 79 BK

[Text] The Congress-I organized a rally in New Delhi today. Addressing it, the party president, Mrs Indira Gandhi, said the rally is to highlight the problems being faced by the people. She reiterated her party's opposition for the setting up of the special courts [to try emergency excesses cases]

Mrs Gandhi criticized the policies of the government in various fields and said these have resulted in rising prices and unemployment. She alleged that communal forces are raising their heads, and there is need to form a broad front of secular and democratic forces to meet their challenge. She expressed the view that atrocities on Harijans and minorities are on the increase, and the government has not been able to provide a sense of security amongst them.

Earlier, a procession was taken from the Red Fort to the Ramlila ground.

VAJPAYEE SPEAKS ON FOREIGN POLICY IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

BK170404 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 May 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has expressed the hope that India and China may soon resume an exploratory dialog to normalize their mutual relations on the basis of the Pancasila. He was replying to the debate on international situation in the Rajya Sabha yesterday.

Mr Vajpayee informed the members that the initiative for the earlier talks between the two countries had come from China.

Replying to criticism about India's foreign policy, the minister said it is marked by a continuity but at the same time it is flexible enough to adjust to the changing situation. He said that the nonalinement policy has stood the test of time.

Expressing his desire for a Europe-like detente, Mr Vajpayee said our relations with neighboring countries have improved considerably and mentioned our relations with Iran. He said that the river water agreement with Bangladesh is in the interest of the both the countries.

About Pakistan, Mr Vajpayee told the House that every effort is being made to dissuade Pakistan from producing the nuclear bomb. He pointed out that Pakistan neither requires these weapons, nor can it economically sustain the efforts.

About the demands for the recognition of the new regime in Kampuchea, Mr Vajpayee said, India has not recognized the new regime as it still does not have effective control.

Uganda has also not been recognized for the same reason. He welcomed Vietnam's return to negotiations with China.

Mr Vajpayee told the members that India's relations with the Soviet Union have acquired a new dimension. At the same time the relations with the United States have also improved.

Regarding the supply of enriched uranium from America for the Tarapur plant, the minister reiterated that if America violates the agreement India will be free to make its own arrangement.

Participating in the debate, the opposition members wanted the government to express solidarity with Vietnam and recognize the new regime in Kampuchea. They also criticised India's stand on the Israel-Egypt agreement.

PAKISTAN

HAQ HOIDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON ELECTIONS, FOREIGN RELATIONS

BK161715 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 79 BK

[Excerpts] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq stressed that his government will hold local bodies elections before the general election, provided this is in the best interest of the country and the people. Addressing a news conference in Quetta this afternoon, he made it clear he does not intend to establish an electoral college for the basic democratic system or indirect elections. He said he wants to establish a strong and practical system for local bodies to provide a basis on which a powerful and strong structure can be built. He said that during his tour of Baluchistan, different sections of the people greatly stressed the need for holding local bodies elections so they can solve their problems. He said the people gave utmost importance to local bodies after the introduction of the Islamic system. The president said the final decision on the local bodies will be made by the Cabinet and his colleagues well before August, after a complete review of the issue. He said the people's aspirations will be fully taken into account in this regard. He said the government will not hesitate to hold the local bodies elections before the general election if it is satisfied it is in the interest of the country. However, he explained, it will not have any bearing on the general election, which will be held on 17 November as scheduled. The president stressed that it is the duty of his government to protect the interests of the country and take steps which further the national interests.

Answering a question on the constitutional amendments regarding the balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the Supreme Court has fully empowered him to make any necessary amendments to the constitution. He said that he is in a position to amend the constitution because at present there is no political party which can achieve the necessary two-thirds majority to amend the constitution. He said if there are no complications he will amend the constitution to produce a balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister. He said the politicians agreed that it is necessary to balance these powers, but they want the amending to be left to the next elected government. But he stressed that if he feels it is necessary in the interest of the country and people, he will rot hesitate to amend the constitution.

Replying to another question, the president said the question of provincial automony had been settled in a fair manner under the 1973 constitution which had been unanimously accepted and signed by all the political leaders in the national assembly. However, if necessary, it could be guaranteed in the constitution that provincial autonomy would be respected.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that all the political parties are bound to owe allegiance to Islam and the ideology of Pakistan as announced by him on 23 March. He said parties acting in a prejudicial manner against these basic principles will be rejected by the people.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the law and order situation in Baluchistan is good in comparison with other provinces. The people of the province are peace-loving; the law and order problem arises out of politics.

Answering a question, the president said he is ready to dismiss the press and publication ordinance, provided the journalists produce an agreed-upon code of conduct. He said the journalists wage board recommendations will be announced soon.

The president also said the Pat Feedar project issue will also be satisfactorily solved.

Referring to his inspection of various military units, the president said their performance is to be commended. All officers and soldiers of the armed forces are instilled with sentiments of love of Islam and patriotism. The president also praised the Baluchistan police, especially the traffic police and civil armed police and scouts..

Referring to foreign policy, the president said Pakistan as a neighboring state wants to improve its relations with Afghanistan. He said Pakistan has extended a hand of friendship toward Afghanistan to improve bilateral relations. In this connection, he mentioned his own visit to Kabul, the visit of Pakistan's commerce minister to Afghanistan and the Afghan's commerce minister's return visit. He said that during the Afghan commerce minister's visit to Pakistan very friendly discussions were held with him.

The president said on several occasions he had stated that events taking place in Afghanistan are an internal matter of that country and we do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of others. Regarding the question of Afghan refugees, he said their number is now nearly 50,000 and Pakistan has provided them shelter purely on humanitarian grounds. He said Pakistan has requested help from international agencies because our own resources are limited. He said we have also asked the Afghan Government to take steps to encourage the Afghan refugees to return to their homes. He said as far as Pakistan is concerned, it cannot throw them back as they are Muslim brothers who have sought refuge in Pakistan.

Replying to a question about the American attitude toward Pakistan, the president said the two countries had very good relations in the past and he hoped that relations between them would improve.

He said Pakistan has been disappointed because we had great expectations from the United States. He expressed hope that the United States would change its attitude in view of the strategic position occupied by Pakistan.